

to bring the same result according to the B.N.A. Act. I do not see that we can duplicate what the Province of Quebec has already done.

Senator POULIOT: When did she do it?

Senator DUPUIS: I don't know.

Senator POULIOT: She has not done it, and nobody has done anything yet; and they realize perfectly well that they have no jurisdiction whatever. Madame Casgrain is crying in the wilderness.

Senator STAMBAUGH: Might the Department of Justice have any opinion that would be of any value? Even if this bill were passed would it have any jurisdiction over Quebec?

The CHAIRMAN: We have planned to call Mr. Bedard, Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, to come before the committee and give his opinion as to the validity of the provincial legislation and whether the federal Government would have the right to pass legislation as proposed in the present bill. There is one difficulty about that. I spoke to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Chevrier, about it, and he was quite agreeable. Yesterday he told me that he has no objection to Mr. Bedard coming before the committee, but it is not usually done in the case of a private bill. It is usually done in the case of a public bill proposed by the Government. I intend to take the matter up with Mr. Bedard during the course of this week. In fact, I tried to get in touch with him this morning, but was unable to do so. I would like him to come before the committee and express his opinion as to whether he feels this is a matter of provincial jurisdiction or federal jurisdiction.

Senator DUPUIS: Was Maurice Ollivier approached about this bill?

The CHAIRMAN: I have not approached him at all. I do not know if anyone else has. Is it the wish of the committee to have expressions of opinion from people who are competent to do so? I certainly hope that we can get Mr. Bedard to testify before the committee. We could also have the deans of the law faculties from the various universities in Quebec, as well as others, to testify.

Senator HUGESSEN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Mr. Bedard, I understand he is in the Department of Justice.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Senator HUGESSEN: If Mr. Bedard appeared before the committee and gave an opinion, would he be giving his personal opinion or would he be expressing the formal opinion of the Department of Justice?

The CHAIRMAN: I think in the case of a bill of this kind he would give his personal opinion. I do not think it would be the opinion of the department, because it is not a matter brought before Parliament by means of a public bill.

Senator HUGESSEN: In other words, it would be just the personal opinion of a member of a federal department?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I do not think he would give the opinion of the Department of Justice. However, when I see Mr. Bedard I shall find out exactly what he is going to do when he comes before the committee. I shall ask him whether he will be giving an opinion of the department or his own opinion. I do not know yet what he is going to do, but I intend to communicate with him today or early next week, and I will get him to come and tell the committee in what capacity he comes.

Senator BAIRD: Would his opinion be of any use if he came in a private capacity? We do not want his private opinion, do we?

The CHAIRMAN: Well, he is a man of very good standing. He is a sound lawyer, and he is Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice. No doubt his opinion, even if it were a personal opinion, would be of value.

Senator POULIOT: He is a professor.