

The CHAIRMAN: All right, everybody. A few words at this point. I have been asked by Mr. Henderson, the Auditor General, to give him my opinion as to what we wanted to do about this. We left that responsibility to the Auditor General. I can just say it was a sub committee of this Committee who approached him. This was offered, and we said, "No. This is your responsibility, you decide." Therefore, you move on your sole responsibility. If anything happens that we get any idea, then we will be down your neck. We want no interference with a responsibility of this nature." That is the position that we took at that time, Mr. Leblanc.

Mr. LEBLANC (Laurier): That is what I wanted to agree but

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest we leave the matter there and think it over before the next meeting.

Mr. NOBLE: Mr. Henderson, if the opinion of your legal advice is questioned, what would be the procedure from there?

Mr. HENDERSON: It seems to me it would be a matter for this Committee to decide, Mr. Noble. You conceivably would be faced with a confrontation between the law officers of the Crown, and the advice which I have received. Presumably you would ask me in answer to one of the questions if I secured legal advice on it and I would say yes, and you would ask me if the legal advice supported the position I took, to which I would reply in the affirmative. Where the Committee would go from that point, I am without experience to say at the present time.

Mr. WISCH: Then we would sit in judgment, I presume.

Mr. HENDERSON: Presumably you would be interested then in hearing both sides of the case. And it is at that point that I would have no hesitancy, if it were the wish of the Committee, to have my legal adviser with me at the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: We would become judge and jury.

Mr. HENDERSON: I have not had any experience on that point, quite frankly, and I am very much in your hands on it.

Mr. NOBLE: It could be a possibility though, could it not?

Mr. HENDERSON: Indeed so. That was all weighed up by this Committee at the time that this arrangement was made in 1924.

Mr. THOMAS MELVILLE WEST: Mr. Henderson, under the order giving him the authority, apparently has the right to obtain legal advice from any source. There is no limit as to the source from whom he has obtained legal advice because he can stop out and get other legal advice from some other place.

Mr. THOMAS MELVILLE WEST: In which case he will report to the Committee, have them examine a transcript and both sides will be heard. I imagine that the Auditor General will render his own conclusions as to what is right.