

Mr. PETERS: I would also think that the committee should have the assistance of an accountant to tell us what they stand for. This is a very large sum of money which is being transferred, and I believe we have an obligation to make sure that the figures are in order. I would suggest the committee should have the services of an accountant acting on our behalf. I am certainly not in a position to even comment on those figures. I do not think I have even the totals.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think we have the authority to do that at the present time, but in any event I think we should have the figures before us on Thursday to find out if we need any assistance. Let us leave it at that.

Mr. PETERS: Personally, I am already in trouble.

Mr. CARON: Do we not have the power to hire an accountant?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. CARON: We have the power to call witnesses. Can we call an accountant as our witness?

Mr. ROCK: I do not think an accountant is going to help. An accountant can only check on those figures.

Mr. CARON: We want to know what they are. We want to understand them.

The CHAIRMAN: Let us wait until we get the figures, and the steering committee can then decide.

Shall we let this gentleman finish with his figures? Those figures are not so bad.

*(Translation)*

Mr. BEAULÉ: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Mr. Macdonald. This is in order, Mr. Chairman. It is just a question regarding the land he mentioned. The figure—

The CHAIRMAN: He has not finished his report.

Mr. BEAULÉ: No, but with regard to the land belonging to the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific, I would like to know whether any buildings on that land have been transferred to the National Capital Commission. Do you have the figures for the cost of the station?

*(Text)*

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Macdonald, you mention land; do these figures include buildings on the lands?

Mr. MACDONALD: Generally speaking the lands which have been referred to are without buildings, except for the Union station and its buildings.

The CHAIRMAN: One moment, Mr. Beaulé. Mr. Macdonald, are you through with your figures?

Mr. MACDONALD: Mr. Chairman, if the committee wishes the figures on the respective contributions to the scheme of the National Capital Commission, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railway, I have them before me. They are quite complicated.

Mr. COWAN: I would like to know what is the value of the Canadian Pacific Railway lands and Canadian National Railway lands before the National Capital Commission was ever created. We want to see if the Canadian National Railway are getting a fair deal in this. Clause 15 speaks about the two railway companies having half interests in the company. I want to know whether they contribute to the half interest before they get the interest in this company.

Mr. OLSON: What is the value of the land which the National Capital Commission is providing for the new complex?

The CHAIRMAN: That is also what I have been waiting for.