

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

October 11, 1945.

The Special Committee on Veterans Affairs met this day at 10.30 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. W. A. Tucker, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, our quorum as set by the House the day before yesterday is now here.

Those of you who were here at the first meeting will remember that we decided to proceed with only twenty-three members. It was the desire of the committee to get going with the work and not have to break up and have it go out to the country that we could not get a quorum of ex-service men to start the important work of this committee. As there was no objection to this course in committee and none in the House when the committee reported to the House, I thought that meant that it met with the approval of everybody. However, you all heard what was said in the House yesterday. The Clerk of the House, Dr. Beauchesne, tells me that there is no question but that this committee is now properly constituted, and the resolution of the House stands unless proper notice is given and that decision is rescinded. Then we can start all over again. Now, Dr. Beauchesne says that if we proceed on the basis of what is already done, anything we do is quite legal. So it has been suggested in the steering committee that a record of what happened at our first meeting be laid before this committee, and if the committee is satisfied with what has happened we should proceed and thereby save the time which would be taken up in starting over. Of course, if there is objection the matter will have to be discussed.

I am absolutely in the hands of the committee. I tried to do what I thought the committee wanted done at the first meeting. I knew I was getting out on a limb, but I thought I was carrying out your wishes. Now, it is a matter for the committee to decide.

Mr. GREEN: Could we have the minutes of the first meeting read?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

(Minutes of first meeting read by the clerk.)

The CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, you have heard the minutes read. The motion in the House covered a reduction of the quorum from thirty-one to twenty, and it covered the other point brought up in the report to the house, that the committee be given leave to sit while the house is sitting. Whether this committee is legally and duly constituted is a matter which I thought you might decide on and indicate whether or not you are satisfied.

Mr. QUELCH: I move the adoption of the minutes as read.

Mr. CROLL: I should be pleased to second that motion.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: Your steering committee met this morning shortly. I don't want to take up too much time but I thought I should indicate what we had in mind suggesting to the committee.

In regard to the meetings of the committee it was felt that we should try to have three meetings every week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; and if