

and cannot go into the S.I.U. records, and so on, that we cannot pursue a useful function here.

Mr. NIELSEN: I did not mention S.I.U. records. I mentioned the trustees.

Mr. GREENE: We are here and the authority we have is to examine the trustees on their report in respect of any facts, knowledge, information or belief that they, the trustees, have. Now, having fulfilled that function and that duty, which has been foisted upon us by parliament by the authority of the resolution, it may be at that time this committee in its report will wish to do other things. It may wish to investigate further and wish to have other witnesses called. It may be that our report, when it goes back to the house, will so state. We may then require further authority from the house.

My position at this time is that the only authority we have is to examine the trustees on their knowledge, recollection, information, belief, and other facts they may have. When the time comes, it well may be that we will wish to place in the report a request for other authority in order to go further than we presently can go.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Émard has been trying to get my attention.

*(Translation)*

Mr. ÉMARD: We are here to throw some light on the doings of the administrators. I strenuously object to the production of documents which might be prejudicial either to the unions or to their members. Moreover, I don't think that we should hide behind legal considerations in order to prevent clarification. In my opinion, all the documents which are of use in the defence of the trustees should be recorded, be they ballot-papers or any other document whatsoever. I think that no document should be recorded that might, as I have said, be prejudicial to the unions or to their members. If it is asked for, it should be recorded.

*(Text)*

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Émard, the steering committee took into consideration that very point and came to the conclusion that if the fact that these documents were made public would jeopardize the function of the trustees or the future of the unions, they should not be produced. The discussion is whether they should come from the Department of Labour or from the trustees. I have copies from both sources. Someone said that the duty of the committee is to examine the trustees and I am naive enough to hope that we will get on with our mandate which is to examine the trustees. I would like us to get a vote on this thing. Then we will have the reports when we get on to our mandate which is to examine the trustees.

Mr. GREENE: May I make a suggestion which would speed things up and possibly keep everyone happy towards the same end. If the committee sees fit to defeat the motion that the documents be produced from the trustees, I would be quite willing to make a motion again that we accept the documents sent by the Department of Labour.

Mr. BASFORD: I call for the question on the motion before the meeting.

*(Translation)*

Mr. ÉMARD: Mr. Chairman, by way of information, could you tell me whether, when the steering committee makes a decision, it can be contested here in plenary committee?