

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Mr. Chairman, may I just ask for clarification, because apparently this question is going to have to be decided in the most unusual manner by this committee.

Mr. CAMPBELL (*Stormont*): It is not an unusual manner.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not an unusual manner; it is always the committee that decides.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): What I wanted was just for clarification. As I say, I am strongly of the view that we have to be guided by the chairman. Do I understand that you have discussed this matter, not only with Mr. Ollivier, but with the Minister of Justice, and that as a result of these consultations you are satisfied with the opinion which you gave last week, and that the only modification is that you feel the matter ought to be decided by the committee as a whole? Is that the position, that your own view, Mr. Chairman, was as a result of these consultations, stated by you last week—is that the situation?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Martin, this morning I read out what the subcommittee had to say yesterday about the procedure that was raised at the last meeting:

The Hon. E. D. Fulton attended. The subcommittee consulted with him informally in regard to the above-mentioned *sub judice* problem.

The minister explained that it is not his function as Minister of Justice to advise the committee as to how it should conduct its proceedings. He did say, however, that as attorney general of Canada he had a concern to see that the trial of the accused toll collectors before the courts was not prejudiced.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): And that was based on the view that you took before, when you raised this matter?

The CHAIRMAN: The steering committee had that, and it was read to the steering committee yesterday afternoon. That is the way the minister felt at that time.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Was it not your view last Thursday, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we should not proceed at that time?

The CHAIRMAN: Last Thursday I asked that someone move a motion that we adjourn at the call of the chair, on account of the situation. What I wanted to do at that time—and I do now—was to clear up the whole matter and find out whether we should, or should not, sit.

There were some people of all parties asking the question, and I thought that it should be decided definitely. That is why I asked for a motion.

We had a discussion this morning and we have had a discussion this afternoon. Many views have been given, and I feel it is now up to the committee.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Chairman, may I ask another question. Even this morning, was it still not your view that we should adjourn for two or three weeks? I believe that is what you said.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I have a copy of that right here.

Mr. JOHNSON: I do not see that you are obliged to discuss this matter, Mr. Chairman. You have to make decisions, not discuss your views with the members of the opposition.

Mr. CAMPBELL (*Stormont*): It is the decision of the committee. This is irrelevant.