

I think we would have 50,000 people up here desirous of making a case. Down there they always take advantage of a free trip.

Mr. FISHER: The basis for my request concerns this particular problem we have in our region. In all past hearings and probably in all future ones, our region has never had the support of the provincial authorities in regard to representation in any particular way at the hearings; that is why I asked. Mr. Bell says we may be setting a precedent. It is not usual at all for members of committees to ask for people who represent regional views. I would not want to rule out anyone else having this privilege. But, historically, we have never had representation at any hearings of any kind and both the member for Fort William and myself thought that this was a case where we could ask for the committee's support. If the committee is against it, they are against it; but I appeal to you. There is nothing partisan in this.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Mr. Fisher, you have stated that you do not have provincial representation as such. Do you not think that that is a provincial matter? If we acceded to your request, we would be opening ourselves up to Ontario problems and would be recognizing a group within Ontario that Ontario has not recognized as having a special interest.

Mr. CHEVRIER: May I ask the chairman if there are many witnesses to be heard from the various provinces? Then I would like to know if it is not sometimes the practice to hear witnesses from various areas who want to make certain representations. The fact that we might decide to hear these two witnesses does not mean that we have to accept their recommendations. We may decide to throw them out. I do not think we can refuse to hear them, in accordance with the suggestion that has been made, now that they have been brought here from the Lakehead.

Hon. GEORGE H. HEES (*Minister of Transport*): It is a question of this committee's approving the expenses.

Mr. DRYSDALE: Under standing order 69 it states:

(1) No witness shall be summoned to attend before any committee of the house unless a certificate shall first have been filed with the chairman of such committee, by some member thereof, stating that the evidence to be obtained from such witness is, in his opinion, material and important.

And (2) states:

(2) The Clerk of the house is authorized to pay out of the contingent fund to witnesses so summoned a reasonable sum per diem during their travel and attendance, to be determined by Mr. Speaker, and a reasonable allowance for travelling expenses.

In commenting on that it does not appear from looking at it very quickly that it requires the support of the committee to summon a witness.

Mr. FISHER: I have filled in—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher filled in the required certificates.

Mr. FISHER: And I wanted the approval of the committee for this, as it is a special case; otherwise, I would sooner let it go.

Mr. BALDWIN: If this is granted, Mr. Chairman, we may find we have many more witnesses who would like to come. I would suggest that we keep the question in mind and wait until the proceedings have been completed. Then at that time if the committee feels there should be some others brought in, we can come to a conclusion at that time. I think we would be on dangerous ground if we say at this time we are going to pay witnesses, especially when we do not know what their evidence is going to be.