

Mr. THATCHER: Most likely, still B.C. power.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is, I do not think that most of the members of the committee would mind meeting, while that debate is being continued. I wonder if the committee would leave it to me to decide in regard to meeting tomorrow afternoon. If there is any real objection from any person on the committee who is very anxious to be here and also to be in the House, I would not call it, but if there is no objection, we would hold a meeting, say, from three to five tomorrow.

Mr. BYRNE: So far as Friday is concerned, I do not see any difference between Friday and Monday or Tuesday and I do not think that that should enter into the argument. There are perhaps other reasons, such as people wanting to attend the House, but that also will be true on practically every day of the week. We have a committee of twenty-six and a quorum of fourteen, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN: Ten.

Mr. BYRNE: If we cannot have a meeting, we will just have to cancel it, but as far as I am concerned I think that we should meet as often as possible while the committee is in operation, and I so move that you be empowered to call the meeting.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Would you permit me to say one word? It would not be fair to ask the members of the committee to take a vote on this without my saying this: I have a long-standing engagement for a week from tomorrow, practically at the other end of the country. I suppose that I could cancel it if the committee felt that I should. But outside of that I am prepared to stay away from the cabinet—

The CHAIRMAN: You are very pessimistic, if you think you are going to be here on your estimates a week from tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: I should hope not. Ministers of the Crown do have a certain amount of work to do outside of parliament. I would not want the committee to make this decision and then be taken by surprise by my absence.

Mr. THATCHER: Just that one day?

Hon. Mr. PICKERSGILL: Just that one day. God willing and T.C.A. permitting, I would be back on Monday morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it would be wise of the committee to go through with a department until they finish it, but in an event like this we could take up some other department. If the minister were kept away, the committee would not need to interrupt its work. I have a motion from Mr. Byrne that I be authorized to call meetings as often as possible, and I think he had in mind tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. BYRNE: That is right.

Mr. FULTON: That motion is rather vague. We do not know just what it really means. I doubt if anyone really has been able to define what is possible, but my feeling about the time of meetings—you suggested meeting Friday afternoons—is that afternoon meetings should be avoided if we think we can get through our work without meeting while the House is sitting. I would raise the same point whether it was a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoon.

Somebody mentioned it might be the International Rivers Bill and I think the suggestion was that it would only be of interest to B.C. members. I am a little surprised at that. There are three or four B.C. members here from different parties.