

the witnesses who appeared from Ottawa. A motion might just as well be made to adopt the evidence of those witnesses who came here from Ottawa. I submit the only thing we adopt is the report made after the consideration of Mr. Matthews' evidence and all the other evidence.

Mr. DONNELLY: I might say with regard to that that Mr. Matthews said himself he had not read all the evidence here.

The CHAIRMAN: The report submitted by the auditors who were appointed by the committee places Mr. Matthews in a very different position from any other witness called to give evidence. He has made a report and I am advised that the committee, at some stage, should adopt or reject such report. I thought this was the appropriate time to deal with it.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: We should receive it. It is in the record; we do not adopt it. It would amount to the committee pledging itself to everything Mr. Matthews has said here. We take his evidence and we hear what he has to say in connection with his findings. We take all the other evidence, and then we decide what findings we shall make and what we shall report to the House.

The CHAIRMAN: The sense in which I was making those remarks is that the committee would adopt the report, not the evidence apart from the report. The motion was made prior to any evidence being taken. Now having heard the evidence by way of explanation, should the report be adopted or refused.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: I do not think you need a motion. The witness gives his evidence the same as any other witness. I do not know whether he was sworn or not, and I do not care. He is here as a witness, and his report is in the record. We have received it now. I do not think we need a motion; I think it is out of order.

Mr. WILLIS: There is a slight difference here. For a number of months we have heard evidence, and from that evidence the sub-committee decided what questions should be answered. Those questions were submitted to an expert, and he in effect answered those questions on behalf of the committee.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: No.

Mr. WILLIS: If we so desire; if we so believe that he answered those questions in accordance with our findings that report could be adopted as our own. Whether it is wise or unwise, I say that is the procedure. If we consider the report brought in by Mr. Matthews as a report that we as a Committee would be glad to sponsor in the House, then we could adopt that report as our report. It is not a question of one witness as against another. We had examined witnesses for a month, and we finally came down to the basis where we thought we could settle the question of the price of gas, and we asked for answers to specific questions. We have those answers, and if we so desire, we can take those answers as being our report.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: Quite right.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion is shall the auditor's report, presented to this Committee, be adopted.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to rule that out of order. I ask you also, with deference, to take some opinion on the matter. I do not think you will find a motion to receive a report is necessary; and certainly a motion to adopt a report is not in order in this way. If you adopt this report there will be no need of making any findings, and we shall have no opportunity to discuss our report, as we should have, in camera.

The CHAIRMAN: The adoption of the auditors report will not preclude our making a report to the House. The report of the Committee is a different thing. If you accept the motion made with that understanding, I think it would be possible to adopt it.