

That the committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee.

That the committee shall have leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Mr. CARROLL: Mr. Chairman, how is it that these people are coming before the committee before the committee has even been convened?

The CHAIRMAN: Nobody has come before the committee.

Mr. CARROLL: How does it happen that they appear in Ottawa at this time, then?

The CHAIRMAN: The situation is this: It has been said by the minister many times, and it has been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne that there would be a committee set up right after Easter. This delegation has come down frequently to discuss its problems, and in those years when a committee was set up, it was customary for us to have them appear before this committee.

Mr. CARROLL: How large a delegation is it?

The CHAIRMAN: There are eleven members of the delegation. They come from right across the country. The situation is this: they came down here expecting that we would be sitting. Perhaps they were not able to find out just when we were going to sit. I spoke to certain members of the committee, and I found the consensus to be that the committee would be willing to hear them. The terms of reference gave the committee specific powers to do certain things; and as the minister said in his speech in the House the other day it is within our powers to listen to anybody we want to listen to. Whether or not we have the power to do what some of the people who approach us will ask us to do is a question that we will meet when we come to it.

Mr. CARROLL: I have no objection at all.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, might we have the order of reference read again?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, certainly.

The CLERK:

*Resolved*,—That a Special Committee composed of 31 Members, to be named at a later date, be appointed to consider a Bill to enact The Special Force Veterans Benefit Act; also proposed amendments to the Pension Act, The Veterans Insurance Act, The Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act, The Veterans' Business and Professional Loans Act, and such other legislation as may be placed before it, and to make recommendations from time to time in respect thereto, and that paragraph one of Standing Order 65 be suspended in relation thereto.

That the committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee.

That the committee shall have leave to sit while the House is sitting.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I would like to support Mr. Croll's proposal. It is a courtesy to these people who happen to be in Ottawa and I hope the committee will adopt the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Are you ready for the question? Those in favour will signify in the usual manner. Those opposed, if any? I declare the motion carried and I shall now ask the delegation to come in.

Gentlemen, while we are waiting for these ladies to file in, I would just like to say that we have with us this morning the deputy minister, General Burns, Brigadier Melville of the Pensions Branch, Mr. Lavoie, and Mr. McKee