

I recognize that certain committees may be an exception to that, and there will be an exception in this committee when it deals with Chalk River, but in ordinary circumstances it should not take place. I would like to go on record as opposed to a sitting this afternoon, as well as opposed to the first point I raised.

Mr. BEST: I might comment that members of all parties were on the subcommittee that met on Tuesday and this procedure was agreed to then, I believe. Information should have been available that day, two days ago.

Mr. McILRAITH: Then, Mr. Chairman, I ask if the information was available then, why was it not available to committee members; why were we not entitled to know about it?

Mr. BEST: Members of all parties were on the subcommittee on Tuesday.

Mr. McILRAITH: The method of notifying members is through notices to each individual member. My question still stands as to why if this was determined on Tuesday, the notices were not sent out on Tuesday.

The CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

Mr. BRUNSDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will have to support the last speaker. I was first reprimanded for not attending the house on a certain occasion and the reason was another committee meeting. I for one feel that the subject coming up this afternoon is of such importance to me that I have to be there—I cannot be here.

The CHAIRMAN: Well gentlemen, I do not know exactly when the notices were sent out. As Mr. Best said, the members of the steering committee of all parties were at the meeting. Mr. Batten was present and Mr. Pitman for the C.C.F. when it was agreed that we would call Eldorado and hear the brief to be presented by their president. As you know, Eldorado had not come before the committee was set up last year. It was felt that we should hear them immediately. Incidentally, we may not finish with the evidence from Eldorado because I learned yesterday, by long distance telephone, that there are several representations to be made by companies interested in mining uranium, and I think the committee will agree that at least representations should be heard by our committee. So that we will not be able to finish with Eldorado even next Tuesday, suppose we did have five meetings. These people are not ready to present their brief, and I think the committee should subject itself to the hearing of these representations. I am sorry, but if there was any misunderstanding about the notices, Mr. McIlraith, I understood they were sent out at noon yesterday. The notice was given, of course, in votes and proceedings.

Mr. McILRAITH: That is the point: it appears it was not given. I am subject to correction on that. It was only given for the 10 o'clock meeting. The 3.30 meeting was not included in votes and proceedings, but I have not checked that personally.

The CHAIRMAN: I am entirely in the hands of the committee and I appreciate the representation you have made. I am quite prepared to accept that suggestion, Mr. McIlraith, because in view of the objection you made and in view of the agenda for this afternoon in the House of Commons, the committee might consider favourably to have our next meeting probably tomorrow morning.

Mr. DRYSDALE: Mr. Chairman, I notice the briefs appear to be somewhat bulky documents and perhaps the time might be taken up this morning and this afternoon in reading the briefs into the record, if that is the intention at this particular time. I wonder if Mr. McIlraith would have any objection if we proceeded with the reading of the briefs in his absence.

Mr. DUMAS: Before we go into that, I would like to know the reason why it was decided to call Eldorado right now, when we were under the impression that we would be continuing with the research council?