



House of Commons
CANADA

Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan

AFGH • NUMBER 013 • 3rd SESSION • 40th PARLIAMENT

EVIDENCE

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

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Chair

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz

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• (1530)

[English]

The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Andrew Chaplin): Honourable members of the committee, I see a quorum.

We can now proceed to the election of the chair. I am ready to receive motions to that effect.

Mr. Hawn.

Hon. Laurie Hawn (Edmonton Centre, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

I nominate Garry Breitkreuz.

The Clerk: It has been moved by Mr. Hawn that Mr. Breitkreuz be elected as chair of the committee.

Are there any further motions?

Mr. Claude Bachand (Saint-Jean, BQ): Can I move Monsieur Hawn?

Hon. Laurie Hawn: No.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Laurie Hawn: I don't want to be there, I want to be *here*.

Mr. Claude Bachand: Okay.

Hon. Bryon Wilfert (Richmond Hill, Lib.): If you want a seconder, I'll second it.

The Clerk: The committee has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Clerk: I declare the motion carried and Mr. Breitkreuz duly elected chair of the special committee.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Clerk: Would you care to take the chair, sir.

The Chair (Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, CPC): I'd like to thank the committee members for their confidence in me. Of course, I will endeavour to do my best to make sure that the proceedings of this committee go smoothly. I look forward to it. I feel it is one of the more important committees on the Hill dealing with some very important issues, so again, I thank you very much.

We really have only that one item on our...

Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Hawn. Do you have a point of order?

Hon. Laurie Hawn: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a couple of suggestions.

First, the quarterly report on Afghanistan has just recently come out. It's been customary that we would have the minister in to review the quarterly report, answer questions, and so on. I would suggest we do that at our next meeting so that we don't have to panic about witnesses.

I would further suggest that we have a steering committee Monday or Tuesday when we come back after the break week to talk about future business, witnesses, and whatnot.

The Chair: Okay.

You've heard the suggestion from Mr. Hawn as to how we should proceed. The first item would then be a steering committee meeting the following Monday after the break week next week, and then a meeting on the quarterly report.

Mr. Wilfert, please.

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I concur with Mr. Hawn. I would suggest it would have to be the Tuesday because Mr. Hawn, Mr. Dion, and I along with others are going to be engaged on the Monday.

Hon. Laurie Hawn: Actually, it's on Tuesday that we meet with the judges, the 19th.

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: I thought it was the Monday, or is it the Tuesday? Whatever day it is, we don't want to have a conflict.

I think having the minister come, the minister of...responsible to cabinet committee?

Hon. Laurie Hawn: Foreign affairs; he's the chair of that—

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: Yes. I just wanted to clarify that's the minister you were looking for.

The Chair: Just to clarify, were you talking about the steering committee meeting?

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: Yes.

The Chair: But the regular meeting would still be the following Wednesday.

Hon. Laurie Hawn: Yes.

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: Monday for the steering committee would be fine.

Hon. Laurie Hawn: Monday afternoon, if that's okay.

The Chair: So 3:30?

Hon. Bryon Wilfert: Monday afternoon? That's fine.

The Chair: Okay.

Well, this was a short...

Yes, Mr. Harris.

●(1535)

Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East, NDP): As a member of the steering committee, I concur.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Bachand, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Wilfert, you are on the steering committee, I understand, together with Mr. Hawn? Okay.

I look forward to meeting with all of you.

Seeing as there's nothing else on our agenda, this meeting stands adjourned.

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