

Mr. SNYDER. What the evidence shows the value to be, if you were instructed in that line by a court as a juror, you would not consider your own opinion, would you, sir?

Mr. ROBERTS. No; but you would weigh the witness' testimony, of course.

Mr. SNYDER. That is right.

Mr. ROBERTS. And the judges do not do that.

Mr. SNYDER. Your testimony has not thrown the best light upon jurors. You are not here testifying today that jurors are any less a respecter of the validity of witnesses' testimony than Commissioners, are you, sir?

Mr. ROBERTS. Oh, no; certainly not. I am just saying the experience the Commissioner gets in this special field of knowledge makes him a fair judge. A jury is just as liable to give a landowner too much. The idea seems to be in this bill that the landowner is not getting enough, and do something to give him as much as possible, whether it is fair or not.

Mr. SNYDER. I want to assure you that is not my idea.

Mr. ROBERTS. I understand that is what it is. I just listened to some of the other testimony here. I do not know.

Mr. SNYDER. I do not have the TVA in my area and I have never seen one of these cases tried. I do not know anything about it other than what I have heard here today.

Let me ask you this. You referred to comparable sales in your testimony. Do you consider any comparable sales of land acquisition in TVA?

Mr. ROBERTS. Not at all.

Mr. SNYDER. That point I was making earlier. I wanted to be sure.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, it is not competent evidence, not admissible.

Mr. SNYDER. You go out and inspect the property before you have a hearing?

Mr. ROBERTS. Uniformly.

Mr. SNYDER. What other pretrial measures do you take in regard to a piece of property?

Mr. ROBERTS. I do not believe we take any.

Mr. SNYDER. Well, do you go down to TVA and look at their maps?

Mr. ROBERTS. No; we simply go out.

We are appointed, and, as chairman, I keep a list of the pending cases and then, as I see by the calendar that we can get to them, I send out notices of a hearing and inspection usually one day and the hearing the next day, and then we meet and the landowner presents his evidence, the TVA presents their evidence, they argue the case as they want to.

Then we take it under advisement. We can look at the exhibits and talk it over and decide what we think it ought to be.

Mr. SNYDER. When you talk it over who all do you talk it over with?

Mr. ROBERTS. The three Commissioners. In other words, we clear the court.

Mr. SNYDER. Is there any consultation with TVA outside the confines of opposing counsel or opposing parties?

Mr. ROBERTS. Is there any what?

Mr. SNYDER. Consultation with the TVA.