

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 23, 1990

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker *pro tempore* in the Chair.

Prayers.

[Translation]

THE HONOURABLE SENATOR S. CHAPUT-ROLLAND

RETURN TO CHAMBER FOLLOWING ILLNESS EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. S. Chaput-Rolland: Honourable senators, I seek the floor for a few minutes on a question of privilege to thank my colleagues in this house, especially Speaker Guy Charbonneau, for the get-well wishes that were sent to me. I want to thank the Speaker of the Senate, the chairman of the Conservative caucus for the flowers that were delivered to me and both sides of the house for the wishes . . .

[English]

I should like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the chamber for the cards, well-wishes and telephone calls. I was moved and pleased.

Before I sit down I should like to call your attention to one other senator here.

[Translation]

—a senator who made his vision into a dream and his dream into reality, and I am referring to the man who was my sponsor, Senator Paul David.

[English]

When one spends 13 days in a hospital that he has mapped, shaped and created, one has the right to say: "This is the best hospital I have seen. This is the one where a lot of Canadians get their hearts back to condition so that they can continue on their way."

[Translation]

Dear colleagues, I simply want to say that we are very lucky to have among us this man who put his dream within the reach of all Canadians. Once again I express my gratitude to all of you on both sides of the house who have given me your support during those somewhat trying hours.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BILL C-21

AUTHORITY TO TRAVEL—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, I wish to raise a question of privilege. I would remind you that on December 21, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Royce Frith, asked his colleagues in the Senate for permission to present the second report of the special committee on Bill C-21. Senator Frith asked for permission to present this

second report and to have it considered immediately, which was granted.

My colleagues, Senators Murray, Roblin and Doody, spoke during this debate. Since permission to travel had not yet been granted and since the motion tabling the document to be considered contained the budget but not permission to travel, in answer to the questions of the three senators I just named, my colleagues on this side of the House, Senator Frith assured us three times, as reported on page 995 of the *Debates of the Senate* for that day, and I quote:

[English]

If it wants to travel, it is going to have to come back, as is implied in the question by the Leader of the Government, for that authority.

[Translation]

A little later, Senator Frith again assured us:

[English]

You will have to find that out, senator, when they come to and ask for the authority.

[Translation]

And a little later, still on the same page, Senator Frith answered a question from Senator Roblin this way:

[English]

It is strange that the solution is certainly getting as much criticism as the problem did.

He goes on to assure us that permission will be sought to travel. This is where my question of privilege arises. Last Tuesday, during the meeting of the committee, we were informed by the chairman, supported by the Liberal majority in the committee, that we were to travel. On two or three occasions that morning, the next afternoon and the following morning, I brought up the matter of the committee travelling, suggesting that we did not have the authority to travel. An opinion was then received from the clerk, quoting part of the second report in which it was said that the committee was respectfully requesting that it be empowered to adjourn from place to place within Canada. Because of that wording, the clerk informed us, the authority to travel had been obtained.

Therefore, in the absence of Senator Frith, I must ask the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate for some explanation on this matter. Surely Senator Frith did not mean to mislead this house. I assumed that, regardless of the wording contained in the second report, there was an understanding with the opposition, through Senator Frith, that such authority would be sought, and, based on the permission that we received on December 21, I believed that the authority to travel had at some time been given. I must say that I suggested that we wait