

argument. I do not know what their feeling was, but my feeling is the same about the two clauses.

Senator Flynn: That is the only point I wanted to put on the record. It seems illogical. If we pass the bill as it is, it is a compromise. I agree with the chairman that we should recite our objection, and this one too, if the committee is agreeable, that there is a difference of procedure provided in clauses 2 and 10.

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: I have been consistent myself on both clause 2 and clause 10. I know that you are consistent on both clause 2 and clause 10. The only people who have not been consistent are the members of Parliament of your party.

Senator Flynn: I do not think they have a majority at the present time. Does the minister suggest that at that time the other opposition parties sided with us?

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: The NDP sided with you, and they did not show any more judgment than the members of your party.

Senator Flynn: This is one case where you did not have to prostitute yourself, as you have done in other cases.

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: I stuck to my guns and I am living with that clause.

Senator Molson: I agree with Senator Flynn that confrontations with the other place are highly undesirable. I am completely sympathetic with the minister. He knows my party affiliations as well as I do, and I can say that I have been very favourably impressed by the minister in his department, and I would like to congratulate him on what he has done in that department. In fact, I am surprised when he tells us that his party has not a majority. I should think that with him in it, it should have. However, the point that we are dealing with in this bill, which happens to be his responsibility, once again brings up a matter that is another slight step in the elimination of the upper chamber of this Parliament under the Canadian constitutional system. I do not know whether we have had it now three or four times. We had it on the tax review bill. We were told, "Don't send back the wire tapping bill!" Now we have it on this bill. Next month we will have it on something else. As much as I am sympathetic with getting this bill into effect, I cannot agree with that process by which this part of Parliament is constantly being cut down in its responsibilities. To that extent I must vote against the motion that is before the committee.

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: If there is an offender, it is not me. The first time I introduced the bill I came to the Senate. I think you should consider that in your voting.

Senator Molson: I agree with you.

Senator Flynn: We are not arguing against the Minister.

The Chairman: The motion is that we report the bill without amendment, but that we include the recitals.

Senator Flynn: And our objections.

The Chairman: And our objections, and why we have reported the bill without amendment.

Senator Greene: Before the motion is put, being a stranger to this committee, and having no right to vote on the motion, I am wondering whether your suggestion could be strengthened and a recommendation put in the report that at the next revision of the act serious consideration be given to the fundamental amendment of or the deletion of clause 2. Would that strong recommendation embarrass the minister in getting his bill through? Since the bill is being passed, I should not think it would, and it might give more teeth to the provisos with which we pass the bill. If I may help Senator Molson—and this might impress Senator Flynn—the right honourable member for Prince Albert in the other place might say that this bill is emasculating the upper house. I think that is his choice of words in a situation such as this.

Senator Cook: I want to speak one way and vote the other. If ever a bill needed the benefit of sober, second thought, this is such a bill. I agree entirely with Senator Molson. On the other hand, I suppose that at the next session we could bring in an amending bill. I am persuaded by what the minister says, and I do not want to do anything at all that might have very serious repercussions, if we amend the bill now. I must confess, however, that I speak one way and I will vote the other.

Senator Desruisseaux: I hope the same thing does not happen that happened once before when the minister changed ministries. It was forgotten then.

Senator Flynn: The problem is, the Senate having taken a stand, when the revision of the act comes before us the house will be warned, if the bill is initiated there, that we will not be able to accept anything but a solution to this problem.

The Chairman: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: I can tell you that if I am the minister when there is another bill introduced, clause 2 will not be in it.

Senator Flynn: I have no objection to your remaining the minister as long as we have the same government, but I hope we change the government.

Hon. Mr. Chrétien: Hope is very far from reality in these circumstances.

Senator Flynn: In both cases.

The Chairman: I put the motion that we report the bill without amendment, with the recitals that we have discussed here today incorporated in the report.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: The motion to report the bill in the form we have discussed, without amendment, is carried.

I will be presenting a report tomorrow. I have to draft it. May I show it to as many of the senators as I am able, to approve of the form?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The committee adjourned.