

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### CONSIDERATION OF FIRST REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the consideration of the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs entitled: "Manpower in Canada's Armed Forces", tabled in the Senate on 10th February, 1982.—(*Honourable Senator Smith*).

**Hon. G. I. Smith:** Honourable senators, I realize that this order has been standing in my name for some time. That may have impeded the desire of some other honourable senators to speak to it. However, subject to the order of business of the Senate tomorrow, it is my hope and expectation—though, I suppose, not my promise—that I will deliver myself of my wisdom on this matter tomorrow afternoon.

Order stands.

● (2140)

### HEALTH, WELFARE AND SCIENCE

#### MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPENDITURES IN SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B)— ORDER DISCHARGED AND MOTION WITHDRAWN

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on motion of the Honourable Senator Marshall, seconded by the Honourable Senator Asselin, P.C.:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science be authorized to examine and report upon the expenditures pertaining to Veterans Affairs set out in the Supplementary Estimates (B), laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983.—(*Honourable Senator Everett*).

**Hon. Douglas D. Everett:** Honourable senators, I note that earlier this evening Senator Marshall presented a motion in which he asked that the Annual Report of the Department of Veterans Affairs be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science. That motion was agreed to, and it is now likely that he will be withdrawing this motion, which is the subject of Order of the Day No. 9. Therefore, my

remarks will be brief and perhaps not very helpful in that the motion will not be proceeded with. If it were to stand, I have no objection to a portion of the estimates being referred to any committee of this house. However, I suggest that what is referred to committee should be the subject matter of the particular item of the estimates.

I say that because the National Finance Committee is charged with the responsibility of dealing with the estimates and reporting back to the Senate prior to receipt of the appropriation bill, and if a committee dealt with the subject matter, it would not interfere with the National Finance Committee's study of the estimates and presenting its report prior to receipt of the bill.

I do not consider that reference of any item in the estimates to any other committee should prevent the Finance Committee from making a study of that same area, if, in the course of its examination, it decided it wished to do so.

On that basis, as Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, I would be in favour of the motion if it were amended to say that the subject matter was being referred to the Health, Welfare and Science Committee, and on the understanding of the other points I have made.

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, I am in general agreement with what Senator Everett has said. When I moved the motion I was unaware that the Annual Report of the Department of Veterans Affairs was going to be tabled on November 25. I should point out that even though I agree with the honourable senator, I believe that an item in the estimates can be referred to a committee other than the National Finance Committee. A precedent has been set because last year we did that very thing, which gave the Health, Welfare and Science Committee the opportunity to delve into what were considered to be some inequities still remaining in the Veterans Charter.

I repeat that I am in general agreement with what Senator Everett has said, and, if there is unanimous consent, I am prepared to withdraw my former motion in favour of the new motion I presented earlier this evening.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.