

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF
SENATE

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Murray has just reminded me that the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce will be meeting as soon as the Senate rises, which will be at any moment now. He might want the committee to meet while the Senate is sitting and after Royal Assent. I would therefore like to ensure that I have the unanimous consent of honourable senators to enable the committee to hear the out-of-town witnesses even though the Senate may still be sitting.

Accordingly, honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), I move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to sit while the Senate is sitting today and that rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I should like to make a plea on behalf of Senator Hastings who has an extensive calendar lined up for the coming week for the Standing Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He has five meetings scheduled, plus a field trip to Sarnia. I urge members of that committee who can possibly attend to do so in order to alleviate the strain he is under today. He asked me to do everything I could to avoid the adjournment for next week but, obviously, those efforts were unsuccessful. I ask the committee members to make every effort to attend those meetings.

Hon. George van Roggen: Honourable senators, before the deputy leader moves the adjournment, I should like to remind the members of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs that in anticipation of our not sitting next week we endeavoured to adjourn the hearing next Tuesday of a witness who was coming from Washington. He was unable to give us an alternative date before the end of April; therefore, we will be sitting on Tuesday, as usual, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

THIRTEENTH BALTIC EVENING

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, I should like to make a few remarks on behalf of the sponsoring committee of parliamentarians of the Baltic Evening on Parliament Hill. As you probably recall, today our committee is hosting the Thirteenth Baltic Evening on Parliament Hill, along with the

[Senator Doody.]

Baltic Federation of Canada. On your behalf I should like to welcome the representatives of the Baltic Federation of Canada, and I remind honourable senators who have accepted our invitation to attend the event this evening that it begins at 6 o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, while we are making comments about the prospective business, I should like to say how pleased I am that the Secretary General of the United Nations is to address a joint session of the House of Commons and the Senate next week, because he has attempted since his accession to that post to provide fresh impetus to the work of the United Nations in order to improve its operations. I believe that, in present circumstances, he requires the full support of all Canadians and, certainly, the Parliament of Canada.

It has been the attitude of successive Governments of Canada to support the Secretary General in his work, and I am very pleased that the Leader of the Government has informed us of the presence of the Secretary General in Ottawa next week.

At the same time, there will be evidence of activity next week because, even though the Senate itself will not be sitting, there will be committee meetings, as the Leader of the Government has pointed out. I particularly welcome the opportunity that will be afforded to us next week to give intensive consideration to the draft report that is now before the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. I am sure we all appreciate that opportunity.

Finally, I should like to express my understanding of the remarks by the Leader of the Government that there is little indication that bills will be coming from the House of Commons next week. In this regard, I made my own inquiries yesterday and received the same response, that is, the likelihood of receiving bills is not great.

However, when bills are to be dealt with, we on this side will deal with them expeditiously, as we have dealt with legislation from the government in this chamber.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I should mention that, during the recess next week, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will meet to hear witnesses from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation—Mr. Tansley and Mr. Dunn. I hope that as many members as possible will attend that meeting.

Honourable senators, this will be the first meeting to be held by the committee this session and, unless I hear to the contrary after we adjourn today, the meeting will take place as arranged.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, it would appear that, although