

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—I rise to a point of order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Is that a part of the trap?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—If the hon. gentleman takes his seat I will tell him.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I hope the hon. gentleman will say something sensible.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—There is nothing before the Chair.

The motion was declared carried.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There was another motion.

The SPEAKER—The last motion has not been declared carried, but I hope the hon. gentleman will speak to the point.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—That is what I am doing. Is the hon. senator who interrupted me satisfied that the motion is not carried, and that I have a right to speak to the motion?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—The hon. gentleman has a right to speak to the motion. I thought it was carried.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I am not responsible for the hon. gentleman's thoughts.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not think the hon. gentleman is responsible for anything.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I hold that this recommendation to the Governor General declaring the seat of the Hon. Dr. Robertson vacant, and to have it refilled, is not within the power or jurisdiction of this Parliament at the present moment. I hold—and my contention has not been yet upset by any authority—that an extraordinary session called by any Government cannot, under the constitution, become a session for the purpose of disqualifying any hon. member of this House. To admit such a proposition would be to admit a dangerous practice and dangerous principle. It may happen in the course of the year that any Government may be obliged to call a special session of Parliament to meet an emergency. That session of Parliament might last only two or three days, just as the one did last August. The Government called Parliament together last August to pass an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for war purposes. Suppose a month after that—which might happen—the \$50,000,000 were all spent, the Government would be justified, in fact would be obliged, to call Parliament

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together again to vote more money, and that session might not last longer than 24 hours. Who is going to contend, in the face of the constitution, that these two sessions, called for extraordinary purposes, should constitute regular sessions of Parliament, absence from which would necessitate the disqualification and unseating of a senator? I leave that to the common sense of the members of this House. That might have happened last fall. Two sessions could have been called inside of 30 or 60 days, giving the members of Parliament the barest notice, sufficient to get them here to attend to the business of the nation. There was a hurried call last August. Supposing another session had been called hurriedly, the result might have been the disqualification of nearly half the members of this House. The hon. gentleman from Fredericton, the hon. member from Rothesay and many other senators who were doing their best to get here, were not able to be present. That meeting of Parliament lasted only two or three days. Some of the members were absent from home on legitimate business; some of them were in foreign countries, and unable to reach here in time. Will hon. gentlemen contend, under these circumstances, that these hon. members should be disqualified? If you do, then you will simply abdicate your powers and your rights and privileges. I do not want to be caught in those difficulties. I will be on hand whenever the Governor General calls on me, if God gives me health and strength; but if I were called away on legitimate business, for instance to the Antipodes or to Europe or Asia, and could not get back here on a week's notice, or even on thirty days' notice, I could still be here in time for part of a regular session. This is a matter of common sense, of fair play, and of common honesty to yourselves, hon. gentlemen, because you do not know when you will be caught. I was moved by these considerations to take this action, and I ask the House to declare that extraordinary sessions of that kind are not such sessions as are provided for in the British North America Act, whereby senators who fail to attend forfeit their seats in this Chamber.

The motion was agreed to.

COST OF TRANSLATION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS moved:

That a special committee be appointed to inquire into the cost of translation in this