

our attention last year, as I recall, when the decision was made. I believe we should proceed with an inquiry on this matter. I know the honourable senator presently has a major inquiry going on about rail sales in Nova Scotia. Once that is concluded, I believe we ought to have an Inquiry on this subject. If the honourable senator himself, as Chairman of the committee, feels that he cannot bring such an Inquiry forward, then we will see to it that it happens. The subject is of major importance to Canada, a country which depends for most of its income upon international trade, and hence, on being known across the world.

[Translation]

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES

ACCESSIBILITY TO FRANCOPHONES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I was really surprised to read in *La Presse* of Thursday, March 19, this morning, that Mr. Bouchard snubbed Francophones outside Quebec. That was the headline of a Canadian Press article. I quote:

“Even if they asked for it, Francophones outside Quebec will not be at the table as native people are. There are a million Italians and they ask nothing of us.”

The Minister of Health, Benoît Bouchard, made this stinging comment yesterday, on the eve of today's constitutional meeting.

I think that Mr. Bouchard does not know his Canadian history. For example, he does not know that these so-called Francophones outside Quebec, a pejorative term that some Quebecers like to use from time to time in the same way that the French CBC likes to refer to “Quebec and the English provinces”, which shows a base ignorance of Canadian history, because these so-called Francophones outside Quebec were outside Quebec before Quebec even existed. They were in Port Royal, in Nova Scotia and around the Gulf of St. Lawrence even before Quebec existed.

I have no objection to being told honestly and openly that unfortunately, there is give and take in these negotiations, but to be told that as Francophones outside Quebec we have no business there shows ignorance, if not worse, something for which certain persons on the federal political scene should see their political psychiatrist.

[English]

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

REPORT OF NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Roch Bolduc, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, presented the following report:

Thursday, March 19, 1992

The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the honour to present its

[Senator Molgat.]

SIXTH REPORT

Your Committee, to which was referred Bill C-32, “An Act to amend the Canada Assistance Plan”, has, in obedience to the Order of Reference of Friday, February 28, 1992, examined the said Bill and now reports the same without amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

ROCH BOLDUC
Deputy Chairman

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Bolduc, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

• (1410)

[Translation]

INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION OF SEVENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, has the honour to present the following report:

SEVENTH REPORT

Your Committee has examined and approved the budget presented to it by the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce for the proposed expenditures of the said Committee with respect to its examination and consideration of such legislation and other matters as may be referred to it, as authorized by the Senate on Tuesday, March 17, 1992. The said budget is as follows:

Professional and Other Services	\$3,000.00
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Respectfully submitted,

THÉRÈSE LAVOIE-ROUX
Chairman

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Lavoie-Roux, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

PRESENTATION OF EIGHTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, has the honour to present the following report: