

views of these groups will receive prompt and serious attention by the Advisory Committee. Your Committee further urges the government to ensure that the Advisory Committee be called to meet as soon as possible, and on a regular basis thereafter, with a view to resolving the outstanding issues that the Minister acknowledged are not addressed in this Bill and that were raised during your Committee's review. It further urges that the government appoint without delay, following the enactment of this Bill, the two proposed new Advisory Committees on the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* and the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act*.

3. Your Committee understands that officials of the Department of Finance and the Treasury Board are currently studying alternative methods of funding and financing public service pension plans with a view to developing options by the summer of 1993. The Committee urges the government to ensure that the Advisory Committees address expeditiously the various socio-economic issues raised during its review of the Bill, and that are outlined in the subsequent paragraphs, without waiting until the review of funding and financing arrangements has been completed. Officials of the Treasury Board should be prepared to return before the Committee in the near future to state the government's intentions in this regard.

4. In particular, your Committee is of the opinion that the existing measures regarding survivor benefits can and should be altered to provide for the possibility, where appropriate application is made, of survivor benefits being paid on a *pro rata* basis both to the legal or common-law spouse and to any previous spouse or spouses, including separated and divorced spouses without regard to their current marital status. It believes that the practice of deeming a separated spouse to have pre-deceased his or her contributor spouse, if he or she has established a new marital-type relationship, is anachronistic and iniquitous and should be terminated forthwith. Where no such relationship has been established, survivor benefits may currently be apportioned between a legal spouse and a common-law spouse. It is therefore apparent that an apportionment of benefits to all current and former legal or common-law spouses who apply could be implemented without any significant increase in pension costs.

5. Your Committee notes that Clause 46(3) on page 44 of Bill C-55 makes no provision for the participation of members of the reserve forces in the Canadian Forces superannuation plan. Under the total force concept, members of the reserves may be kept on call-up status for several years and may be posted overseas for extended periods of time on peacekeeping and other duties. Many of these individuals may not be members of other employer-sponsored pension plans. The Committee therefore urges the government to investigate the feasibility and cost of permitting members of the reserves to

participate in the Canadian Forces superannuation plan during their periods of service.

6. The Committee requests that the Treasury Board provide it with a copy of the regulations to be prepared in conjunction with Bill C-55 as soon as they are available.

Respectfully submitted,

C. WILLIAM DOODY
Acting Chairman

Footnotes

1. See *Proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance*: Thursday, September 10, 1992, p. 32:9.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 32:10

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

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

AGRICULTURE

PRAIRIE CRISIS—NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, September 24, 1992, I will call the attention of the Senate to the emerging prairie agriculture crisis.

THE CONSTITUTION

MISHANDLING OF ISSUE—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, September 24, 1992, I will call the attention of the Senate to the mishandling of the Constitution issue by the Government of Canada.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 225 residents of Nova Scotia who object to the goods and services tax.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Dated when?

Senator Hébert: Honourable senators, I get these every day. I don't know the date. These petitions are mostly from Halifax, Bedford, Sackville and Fall River.

I get these petitions every week, so I don't know the date on any one in particular.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 499 residents of British Columbia who object to the goods and services tax. These petitions are mostly from Kelowna, West Bank, Vernon, Penticton, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kitse mac and Smithers.