

classic yet on that matter, and it is one of the finest reports that Senate committees have produced.

There were problems, of course, in this area because these small communities are looking again at the possibility of greater coordination among themselves. We had Sir Shridath Ramphal in Canada last week meeting with the committees of both Houses on Foreign and External Affairs.

We were also in Trinidad and Tobago, where they had a very distressing coup. The small countries were very interested in the possibility of guaranteeing their security against civil uprisings, considering that they are small countries with very small armed police forces.

One of the fascinations of being with people in the Commonwealth Caribbean is the fact that, with such small polities in these mini-states, they carry on the Parliamentary process, the administrative and the executive process, with such great success.

One item that we seem to deal with here all the time is upper chambers. One conference session dealt with upper chambers, and I think they have very interesting developments down there. They structure the upper chamber with so many members appointed by the president, or head of state, on the advice of the prime minister; so many members on the advice of the leader of the opposition; and so many more without advice. Sometimes those presidentially-appointed senators may be in a situation where they hold the balance of power.

Another interesting thing for an old Canadian senator, or an aging one, is that often in the Caribbean there is a tendency to appoint young political figures to the Senate so that, later on, they may take a more active role in the popular elected house or in the government. We would not be quite accustomed to that here. There is a nasty tendency to suggest that the old stagers are put in the Senate after they have been more or less useful somewhere else.

I remember being very impressed by a young Bermuda senator who intervened off the bat and turned the discussion into a lively debate. She was much like Senator Allan J. MacEachen when he is at his best. I complimented her and said, "Unfortunately, you could not be a Canadian senator." She said, "Why not?" I do not know whether she was thinking of feminism or racism. I said, "Up in Canada, you have to be 30 years of age." She said, "Well, I have a daughter who is 20." I guess I am not so good at reading the youth or otherwise of the young ladies.

In closing, I want to say that, in my opinion, it is extremely important that we carry on our long-term, long-time interest in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Every time I go there, I am close to being embarrassed—I do not embarrass all that easily, at how they regard us with such high respect and deep affection that I sometimes pause to hope we are worthy of their regard. I really believe we can do more and we must ever develop that great goodwill between us.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

The Hon. the Speaker: If no one else wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

[Senator Macquarrie.]

[Translation]

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Paul David, pursuant to notice of Wednesday, December 11, 1991, moved:

That the membership list of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be increased to 15 members and that Rule 87(1)(m) be suspended in relation thereto for the present session.

Honourable senators, I shall be very brief.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, could Senator David explain to us why he is making this request?

Senator David: Honourable senators, the committee which I have the honour of presiding has unanimously accepted the motion which I presented yesterday afternoon. The purpose of this motion is to add three members to the present twelve members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, solely to fill five positions on the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs whose quorum is three.

During the last session, the chairman of this subcommittee always had great difficulty convening his group. We want to correct that situation. Senator Marshall is ready to submit a list of several senators who would be willing to serve mainly on this subcommittee while also becoming members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

This increase in the number of members will not entail any extra expenditure and will allow the future chairman of this subcommittee to function with greater ease and efficiency.

The future members of this committee wish to involve themselves with the veterans' problems and to acquire the competence, expertise and enthusiasm which I am sure Senator Marshall will be able to transmit to them.

The purpose of the motion which I have presented is therefore clear and simple. Consequently, I hope that, in the best interests of this subcommittee, the Senate will accept the suggestion which I am humbly making on behalf of the members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

[English]

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, if I understood the Speaker correctly, he referred to Senator David's motion for increasing the number of members of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications. That is not the case. It is the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs.

The Hon. the Speaker: Senator Graham just came to the Chair to point out the mistake of the translator, but I did say, in French, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs. I have requested the Clerk to ensure that the record is correct.

[Translation]

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, if I may ask a question, Senator David, are there any extra costs related to setting up this sub-committee?