

This article should be kept by all of you. I will send you a copy of it, even though I have no staff at the moment because we are reducing our expenses. Why do not we say that publicly? We do not have money to replace staff who are on vacation. Yet we are ready to spend \$6 million on this proposed legislation. We do not have money to change the carpet now. I opposed changing the carpet. Look at it. It is a shame for visitors to see. But I am glad that I said, "Do not change it. Show them that we are screwed around here." Nevertheless, we are prepared to spend \$6 million.

What I am saying seems to be entertaining to some of you. That is my way of trying to convince people, but I know that you cannot be convinced.

An Hon. Senator: Button him up!

Senator Prud'homme: You are not having fun at my expense. I know that the way I express myself entertains you. I have always spoken in this fashion, and for 30 years I was popular in the national Liberal caucus. Every time I ran for office in an open battle, I was defeated; in a secret ballot, I won every election in the caucuses of Quebec and the national caucus. That says a lot. I was speaking up for those who did not want to speak up.

Honourable senators, you have a golden opportunity before you today. I am not trying to sit on both sides of the fence. People seem to say, "It seems we have more support now, so we will delay the process."

• (1830)

I have not liked the process from day one, and I said so in committee. I am proud to be a senator and I do not care about the biggest authority in this country telling us that we should bow to the House of Commons. Canadians will decide when it is time to bow to the House of Commons or to the wishes of members of the House of Commons, but in the meantime Canadians accept that there is a Senate in this country. They accept that Senator Thériault can stand up in the Senate, as he courageously did two years ago when public opinion was in favour of him voting against the \$6,000 raise, and vote as he sees fit. He made a remarkable speech at that time. That is what people expect from senators and that is what I am trying to give to them.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I do not want to interfere in the debate, but I assume it is the wish of the Senate that I not see the clock.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Hon. the Speaker: The motion before us is that of Senator Lewis, seconded by Senator Stanbury:

That the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs be not now adopted, but that it be amended by adding immediately after the words "further hearings" the following:

And that it present its final report to the Senate on the message from the House of Commons, dated June 20,

1995, and the motion of the Honourable Senator Graham, dated June 28, 1995, no later than August 8, 1995.

Is there any other senator who wishes to speak?

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Yes.

Some Hon. Senators: No.

The Hon. the Speaker: Will those honourable senators in favour of the motion please say "yea"?

Some Hon. Senators: Yea.

The Hon. the Speaker: Will those honourable senators opposed to the motion please say "nay"?

Some Hon. Senators: Nay.

The Hon. the Speaker: In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

And two honourable senators having risen.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is there an agreement on time?

Senator Kinsella: We have agreed on a five-minute bell.

The Hon. the Speaker: The vote will then be held at 21 minutes to seven o'clock.

Please call in the senators.

• (1840)

Motion in amendment of Senator Lewis negated on the following division:

YEAS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Adams
Bacon
Bonnell
Bosa
Bryden
Carstairs
Cools
Corbin
Davey
De Bané
Fairbairn
Gigantès
Grafstein
Graham
Haidasz
Hays
Hébert

Hervieux-Payette
Lewis
Losier-Cool
MacEachen
Marchand
Neiman
Olson
Pearson
Perrault
Petten
Riel
Robichaud
Stanbury
Stewart
Stollery
Thériault
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