

in believing Mr. Claude Morin, who says on the first page of the foreword of his book, *Lendemain piégé*: "... les libéraux ont manqué à leur promesse référendaire", but who admits on page 16 of the same book that during the referendum "il était très clair ce que les libéraux avaient promis" a renewed federalism unlike that recommended by Senator Chaput-Roland, and totally like what Mr. Trudeau had always preached.

On motion of Senator Doody, debate adjourned.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

MOTION to APPOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Henry D. Hicks, pursuant to notice of Tuesday, December 13, 1988, moved:

That a special committee of the Senate be appointed to hear evidence on and to consider the following matter relating to national defence, namely, Canada's land forces including mobile command, and such other matters as may from time to time be referred to it by the Senate;

That, notwithstanding Rule 66, the Honourable Senators Balfour, Bonnell, Buckwold, Doyle, Gigantès, Hicks, Lewis, MacEachen (or Frith), Marshall, McElman, Molgat, Molson, Murray (or Doody) and Roblin, act as members of the Special Committee and that four members constitute a quorum;

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses, to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the Committee;

That the papers and evidence received and taken on the subject during the Thirty-third Parliament be referred to the Committee; and

That the Committee report to the Senate no later than 31st March, 1989.

He said: Honourable senators, a word of explanation is probably in order. The predecessor to this committee, which was a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee, began its study of the Canadian Forces some five years ago and produced a report which had some influence, though not as much as we would have liked, on government policy with respect to manpower in our armed forces. That report was followed by one on Maritime Command, in which we recommended the acquisition of the Canadian Patrol Frigates. While I am sure that we were not the only body to make such a recommendation, it was subsequently adopted, and the government is now in the process of acquiring the second batch of patrol frigates. We also recommended certain other points with regard to Maritime Command. The committee then issued two reports having to do with our air forces—the first dealing with North American air defence and the second dealing with Air Transport Command. Up to that point our committee had covered the armed forces of Canada, with the exception of land forces. This last study on Canada's land forces, and chiefly Mobile Command, commenced somewhat

over one year ago has been held up because of delays in Parliament.

It is my intention, and my colleagues on the committee agree with me, to include in this last report an update of the cost of all the recommendations that we have made, with notations as to those recommendations that have been implemented, so that we may see in one document what recommendations we have made for the armed forces of Canada. The work on this report is almost completed. Indeed, had Parliament not been prorogued I believe we would have completed our text within three weeks of the time of prorogation and we would now be in the process of approval, editing and translation.

I am determined that we finish this report before the end of the current fiscal year, no matter what influence the election campaign may have had on our work. I think that, after the five years, more or less, that we have spent on this analysis of Canada's armed forces, it would be a great shame if we did not finish up our program as quickly as possible. I believe that it is possible to complete our task before the end of March. As for the budget, while it is true that we have no budget in a new Parliament, the moneys provided in the budget in the previous Parliament are more than enough to pay for the remaining work that has to be done by the committee.

I should think that this is a non-controversial motion, and I hope that it will receive the support of honourable senators. I believe that we will produce a document that will be important in its analysis of the Canadian Forces and Canadian defence. I invite honourable senators' support for the motion.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold: Honourable senators, before that motion is put, would you allow me to ask a question of Senator Hicks?

Senator Frith: Of course.

Senator Buckwold: In view of what I can gather, the Senate and Parliament will not be in session until probably toward the end of February. Will that be enough time for the committee to do its work, to review its report and to have it printed by March 31, which is really just a few weeks later? I am wondering if our former chairman would consider changing the date from March 31 to April 30 to give the committee a little more time to look into a fully comprehensive report.

Senator Hicks: Honourable senators, I am a little puzzled at the deputy leader's motion to adjourn the debate. It seems to me that the matter is straightforward and that we ought to deal with it tonight so that we can get the research staff of the committee working as quickly as possible. If that were so, I believe we could complete the report, including its translation and printing, by the end of this current fiscal year. Therefore, I am unhappy that Senator Frith has moved the adjournment of the debate, which, coming at this time of the year, is bound to introduce long delays and which, I think, will add absolutely nothing to the material that will be placed before us before we make a decision on this motion.