

That the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance be authorized to examine and report upon the activities of the Government of Canada in its financial support of post-secondary education and training; and

That the Committee have power to engage the services of such professional, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purpose of the said examination.

The wording of the modified motion, which I have just read, is in keeping with the wish of the steering committee and with the wish of the National Finance Committee, members of both of which reviewed and approved the wording I have just read when it was discussed in committee on Thursday last.

Somehow, and quite inadvertently, the phrase "... Government of Canada in its financial commitment to the support of post-secondary education and training" crept into the Notice of Motion. It was not supposed to. The phrase "commitment to" had been proposed to, but expunged by, the steering committee.

The phrase which was approved and was supposed to appear in the Notice of Motion was to have read: "... Government of Canada in its financial support of post-secondary education and training;" as it does in the modified motion I have just read to honourable senators.

[*Translation*]

In the other official language, the following phrase will be amended:

... du gouvernement ayant trait à ses engagements financiers à l'appui de l'enseignement postsecondaire et la formation professionnelle;

It should have read:

... du gouvernement ayant trait à son appui financier à l'enseignement postsecondaire et à la formation professionnelle;

I ask for leave to amend the motion. I will explain it later.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion as amended by Senator Leblanc?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Will you explain it, Senator Leblanc?

Senator Leblanc: I will discuss the amended motion.

Senator Frith: Have we reached the point of approving the amendment to the motion?

The Hon. the Speaker: Shall the motion as amended by Senator Leblanc carry?

Senator Leblanc: We are only dealing with the amendment.

Senator Frith: We are dealing with the wording of the motion as amended by Senator Leblanc, on which we are agreed. We are not now dealing with the main motion.

[*English*]

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Your Honour, as I think someone has said, it not a question of amending the motion, because the mover cannot do that

without consent. Would it not be better to withdraw the motion and, thereafter, submit the proper one? We can all have a look at it tomorrow. I understand from my colleague here that there is really no problem with the modified version, but perhaps that is the best way to go about it.

Senator Frith: Either way would require our consent. Certainly, we on this side of the chamber consent to the rewording of the motion or to its withdrawal and its being re-presented as reworded.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, for the sake of the record and for clarification, perhaps we should defer the matter until tomorrow and get the correct wording on the order paper. I know exactly what the honourable senator is talking about; I was privy to the discussions and changes of the wording. I did not for a minute expect that the unexpunged version would show up on the order paper. For the sake of the record, perhaps we can proceed with a new motion tomorrow.

Senator Leblanc: Is it agreed, honourable senators, that I read the motion as amended? No?

[*Translation*]

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it is now proposed that the amended motion be presented tomorrow for the approval of the Senate.

Senator Frith: In the meantime, we agree to Senator Leblanc's withdrawal of his motion as it now stands.

The Hon. the Speaker: Do you agree to the withdrawal of the motion now under consideration?

Hon. Arthur Tremblay: I should like to make a comment.

Senator Leblanc: I have to ask leave to withdraw the motion. It is the usual procedure. It is normal that I be the one to ask leave to withdraw the motion.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Once the motion has been withdrawn there will be no further items on our agenda.

Senator Leblanc: It is normal that I should ask leave to withdraw the motion.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is leave granted to withdraw the motion?

Senator Frith: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Senator Tremblay: With respect to the reworded motion, may I be allowed to point out to Senator Leblanc—

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: There is no longer any motion under consideration.

Senator Tremblay: It is merely a matter of wording.

Senator Corbin: Has the motion been duly withdrawn?

The Hon. the Speaker: Yes.

Senator Corbin: If such is the case, we have no more business. We are speaking in a vacuum. What are we doing at this moment?

Motion withdrawn.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.