

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, to which standing committee should this bill be referred?

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I move that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, I do not see why we should send this bill to the Banking and Commerce Committee. What do banking and commercial institutions have to do with minerals under the sea? It seems to me the bill should go to one of the other committees, and there are many of them.

This is the problem I complained of in the previous session: everything goes to the Banking and Commerce Committee, even a bill which concerns the ownership of the bottom of the sea. It is most ridiculous. Here we have a most interesting point: when we do not know where a bill should be sent, someone says "Let us send it to the Banking and Commerce Committee". That is the overall committee which decides everything under the sun in this chamber. Let me refer you to some of the committees that were set up on the second day of this session, and see how the subject-matter of this bill relates to the work of those committees.

This bill cannot be sent to the Joint Committee on the Library; it cannot be sent to the Joint Committee on Printing; it cannot

be sent to the Joint Committee on the Restaurant; it cannot be sent to the Committee on Standing Orders.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Why not?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Perhaps that would be just as sensible as sending it to the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Hon. Mr. Pratt: May I be allowed to suggest that it be sent to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: That is a very bright idea; I am glad my honourable friend has suggested it, because I was coming to it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Will my friend allow me to ask a question? If I withdraw my present motion and move that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, will he be satisfied?

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I withdraw my motion and now move that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

Some Hon. Senators: Carried.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Thank you.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Haig, the bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, November 4, at 8 p.m.