

Senator Frith: Your Honour, according to Rule P-3(a), that is quite right.

Honourable senators, as things stand at the moment, the next event before us is a vote at 3.40 tomorrow morning. I do not want to disappoint any nighthawks, but that vote is now completely academic. It will not make any difference to anyone who wins or loses the vote because the decision was made that it was not receivable as a result of the necessity to hold the vote we just held. Therefore, the vote scheduled for tomorrow morning is dépassé, and for that reason Senator Doody and I recommend, with leave, that the motion for that vote tomorrow morning be withdrawn.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion withdrawn.

The Hon. the Speaker: It being 6 o'clock, I suspend the sitting until 8 p.m.

The sitting was suspended.

At 8 p.m. the sitting of the Senate was resumed.

THE SENATE

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I think I was on my feet when the sitting was suspended.

Some Hon. Senators: Order!

Senator Frith: I have spoken to Senator Doody and I told him that we wish to take advantage of Rule P-1(a), our one per week, tonight. Therefore, it being after 5:45 o'clock on a Tuesday, within the terms of Rule P-1(a), I move that the Senate do now adjourn. The result of that, as you know, is that, without a ruling or anything else, the sitting is automatically suspended, not adjourned, forthwith until 2 o'clock the following day, and that would be our invoking of the P Rule for the week, in any event.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, that provisional rule is there. It offers the opportunity for any honourable senator to move the adjournment once a week. Senator Frith and his colleagues are invoking their right to do so.

Senator Frith: What about the "forthwith"?

Senator Murray: "Forthwith", as he says, and "notwithstanding". Let me therefore simply express my astonishment that this should be the case, having sat here this afternoon listening to a number of honourable senators opposite, and in particular the Leader of the Opposition, tell us why they wanted, and intended, to deal with Senator Kelly's point of order as soon as Bill C-62 was called and we were back on Orders of the Day.

Senator Frith: And that will happen tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

Senator Murray: The point of order is still before the house.

Senator Frith: We do not accept that.

Senator Cools: It never got before the house.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, it seems to me that they cannot be very anxious to express their views on this important matter. However, that will give the Speaker the opportunity to study the transcripts of what was said during the day.

Senator Frith: I cannot resist mentioning that the wording of Rule P-1(a) was agreed upon and settled amongst us, and I am now going to have to look a second time at the meaning of the word "forthwith" when I agree to that word with Senator Murray. However, it is an automatic adjournment.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, what we are doing is out of order, but presumably we are doing it by consent, namely speaking when the rule says "forthwith", but having seen the breach occur twice, may I make it a third time? It is simply to say that it is my intention at 2 o'clock tomorrow to address the matters that have been raised by Senator Kelly—fundamental matters, I may add.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the sitting of the Senate is suspended until tomorrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The sitting of the Senate was suspended until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

[*Editor's Note: For continuation of proceedings see Issue No. 116B.*]