

there is no use having good advisers around if no one is smart enough to take their advice. Justice delayed is not as desirable as justice promptly executed, but I do appreciate that a correction has been made.

● (2100)

Of course, it could not be a private member's bill of the Senate if a minister moved it. I had hoped, in the interval that I have been waiting, that Senator Austin would have received the support of his cabinet colleagues and that this, in fact, would have emerged as a government bill. It deals with a very important matter, one which I think has the support not only of the Senate but of the people of this country. To that extent, then, I will forego delivery of the great speech with which I am pregnant—

Hon. C. William Doody: No, no!

Senator Macquarrie:—hopefully to say a word another day.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Hear, hear!

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Order discharged and bill withdrawn.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

MEETING OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, by way of further information on the point of order raised previously regarding the Special Joint Committee on Official Languages, I think I can give you what might be called good news and bad news.

A question was raised as to whether Senator Murray needs the authority of the Senate to sit while the Senate is sitting tomorrow. The good news is that the terms of reference provide:

That the Committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the Senate;

For the benefit of honourable senators, the reference appears at page 137 of the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* dated May 27, 1980. Therein it is provided:

That the Senate do unite with the House of Commons in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee to consider the Report of the Commissioner of Official Languages, 1978, tabled in the Senate on February 20, 1979, and the Report of the Commissioner of Official Languages, 1979, tabled in the Senate on April 22, 1980;

That six Members of the Senate, to be designated at a later date, act on behalf of the Senate as members of the Special Joint Committee;

That the Committee have power to appoint from among its members such subcommittees as may be deemed advisable and necessary and to delegate to such

subcommittees all or any of its powers except the power to report directly to the Senate;

That the Committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the Senate;

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

That the Committee be empowered to retain professional, clerical and stenographic help as may be required;

That the quorum of the Committee be four members—

Obviously, from what Senator Murray said, there were four members present and, therefore, there was a quorum.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Yes.

Senator Frith:

That the quorum of the Committee be four members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented—

Senator Flynn: Sure.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, here is the bad news:

—and that the Joint Chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when three members are present so long as both Houses are represented; and

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons—

Senator Flynn: Finish the sentence. It says that to hear witnesses only three members are needed. Your interpretation is incorrect when you say that both chairmen are needed to decide; it says there that only three members of the committee are required to hear witnesses. Four members are required to make decisions and three members are required to hear witnesses. Finish the sentence.

Senator Frith: I will finish the sentence. Before I do, I want to say that I did not make an interpretation. I was reading from the *Minutes*. I did not interpret a single thing. I will read it again:

That the quorum of the Committee—

I am not interpreting; these are the words.

That the quorum of the Committee be four members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented and that the Joint Chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when three members are present so long as both Houses are represented;

Honourable senators, it says right here that “the Joint Chairmen be authorized to hold meetings,”—

Senator Flynn: No, no, no. You are mixing it all up again.

Senator Frith: No, I am not. I am reading exactly what it says.

Senator Flynn: I just read it a moment ago.