

white paper, if that offends your sense of propriety—call it “proposals”—but whatever you call it, this is the subject matter to which my motion refers. If you wish to ascertain what the subject matter is, it is to be found in Bill C-42; it is to be found in various treatises and brochures which have been issued along the way by the government in connection with this matter. Therefore, in my view, there is an element that should be studied at this time so that we are in line with the present thinking and proposals of the government. As to what other proposals and views we will have, I do not know, but at least we can prepare ourselves with respect to what we know.

Senator Choquette: Am I wrong in assuming that when we referred the subject matter of a bill to committee it was tantamount to giving it the six months' hoist and in effect, killing it? That has been my experience during the few years I have been here.

● (1520)

Senator Hayden: I would say there is no danger of killing the bill.

Senator Flynn: You cannot kill something which is dead.

Senator Hayden: The bill has been withdrawn. The bill, as a bill in the course of its procedure through Parliament, has disappeared. It has been withdrawn from the order paper. Therefore it is in the position of possible pending bills, and there may be a number of them. So far as shutting off any discussion on this subject matter, a new bill can be introduced at a later date. Nothing the Senate does will impede or hold up consideration of the bills concerned, or the submission of a new bill if the government decides to introduce one. We will draw certain conclusions and make a report. Those conclusions will be acceptable, or they will not. We will report to the Senate, and the Senate will follow a course of action.

Senator Walker: Honourable senators, obviously there is no bill before the house and obviously there is not at the present time a white paper. But I agree with my honourable friend that there is no reason whatever why this motion should not pass so that we can consider the subject matter of the former bill. Is not that correct? If so, I agree with the honourable senator's submission.

Senator Flynn: In any event, my questions can very well be put in committee when it commences its study. I was concerned as to exactly how we would operate. However, I think I can do that more efficiently in committee when the committee meets to determine its method of operation.

Senator Hayden: Honourable senators, as to how the committee will operate, all I can say is that I am only the

chairman. The Leader of the Opposition is a member of the committee, as is Senator Walker, Senator Beaubien and Senator Haig. All members of the committee will have to settle on the procedure to be followed. As I mentioned, there have already been inquiries from people who would like to be heard in relation to the subject matter of Bill C-42.

Senator Flynn: I wish to say that I have never heard a greater understatement than that Senator Hayden is only the chairman of the committee.

Senator Deschatelets: Could Senator Hayden advise whether the committee in the other place has completed its examination of this subject matter?

Senator Hayden: No. Bill C-42 was at the stage on the order paper where it was up for second reading and reference to a committee. It was not referred to committee. It was not proceeded with on second reading. There was a motion by the government house leader in the Commons referring the subject matter of the bill to a Commons standing committee. That was passed, and the government house leader in the Commons then made a motion that the bill be withdrawn from the order paper. They had to tidy up the order paper. They did not want to leave it sitting there at the stage of standing for second reading. I believe the matter was raised by Mr. Knowles who pointed out the difficulty of leaving on the order paper an item which could not be proceeded with because the subject matter had been referred to committee. The motion was then put that the bill be withdrawn from the order paper. Therefore, they have cleaned up their order paper.

Senator Deschatelets: Then the committee has not yet met?

Senator Hayden: No.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Senator Langlois: Honourable senators, before I move adjournment of the Senate, I should like to remind honourable senators that two committees will meet after the house rises. The Committee on Standing Rules and Orders will meet in room 263-S, and the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance will meet in room 256-S to examine the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.