

ing facts on the rail line, the port and the community. This will provide a strong body of information with which future decisions about the facility can be made.

[Translation]

PRIVATE BILL

INCOME TAX CONVENTIONS BILL—MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons returning Bill S-2, an Act, to implement conventions between Canada and Finland, Canada and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Canada and the United Mexican States for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to income tax and the prevention of fiscal evasion and a convention between Canada and the United Mexican States for the exchange of information with respect to taxes, and acquainting the Senate that they had passed the bill without amendment.

[English]

AIRPORT TRANSFER (MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS) BILL

THIRD READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Grimard, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux, for the third reading of Bill C-15, An Act to provide for certain matters respecting official languages, employees' pensions and labour relations in connection with the transfer of certain airports,

And on the motion in amendment of the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Fairbairn, that clause 4 of the Bill be deleted and replaced by the following:

(4) Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date the Official Languages Act applies to the airport authority, with such modifications as the circumstances require, to the authority in relation to the airport as if

- (a) the authority were a federal institution; and
- (b) the airport were an office or facility of that institution, other than its head or central office.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, this bill, you will remember, is the subject of an amendment proposed by me dealing with the question of official language service by concessionaires to the travelling public and in principal, and in fact, to all other concessionaires at airports.

The origin of the amendment was a letter I received from the immediate former Commissioner of Official Languages, D'Iberville Fortier. That letter appears in the *Debates* at least once. I put it on the record at the time of earlier debate, possibly at second reading.

[Senator Lynch-Staunton.]

The matter was then referred to a Senate committee, and the present Commissioner of Official Languages, Dr. Goldbloom, gave evidence effectively supporting the position taken by Mr. Fortier, namely, that the legislation should be amended.

There were then discussions on both sides, because the essence of the amendment found favour on both sides. There was not a high level of partisanship over at least finding some way to correct a defect underlined by two Commissioners of Official Languages. Negotiations took place, I understand, with the appropriate minister.

I can now bring you up to date by saying that I have conferred with the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and he has kindly furnished me with a copy of a letter addressed to him from the minister, Jean Corbeil. I will read that letter so that honourable senators will understand exactly the situation.

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Excuse me. It could be the draft which you have is not the final letter. There have been a couple of changes. Perhaps I could furnish you with the final letter. We could also have copies distributed to our colleagues so they could follow along with you. There have been one or two changes that would appear to be minor but significant. I would rather you read from this text.

Senator Frith: Not changing the essence?

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Not at all. I don't think you will even notice it.

Senator Frith: I should say that attached to this letter is a letter from the commissioner's office also, and I will read that. While copies are being made and distributed, I will read Mr. Corbeil's letter. It is addressed to Senator Murray, Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Dear Colleague:

This is further to our discussions regarding Bill C-15 [The Airport Transfer (Miscellaneous Matters) Act] and the urgency of getting the Bill through the Senate in order not to delay the implementation of the airport transfer initiative with the Local Airport Authorities (LAAs) of Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.

I am going to read these parts quickly. I will come to the what I think are the key parts, and I will read them a little more slowly.

I am pleased to report that our colleague, the Honourable Gilles Loiselle, President of the Treasury Board has agreed with my proposal to include—

This is important. This is the essence of it.

—a special clause in any future TC-LAA lease of federal airports located in New Brunswick to the effect that those future LAAs would undertake contractually to comply with the provisions of Parts V and VI of the Official Languages Act. This new clause would read as follows:

Then it sets out the wording. It says that the LAA undertakes to comply with the provisions of Part V. I do not think I