

tions, I ask leave to report on a matter which was under discussion at the last two sittings of the Senate about a possible investigation by that committee of the proposed closing of certain Canadian National Express terminals or offices.

Honourable senators will recall that this matter was discussed at length on Tuesday evening last, and there was considerable expression of opinion that it would be appropriate to have such an investigation. Yesterday, as chairman of the committee, I said that I would consult the steering committee and the proper officials of the Senate with a view to seeing whether I might be permitted today to bring forward a motion.

I have consulted the steering committee, which has concurred in the idea that this matter should be so investigated, and I have consulted the appropriate officials and officers of the Senate. As a result thereof, I now move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Roblin, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e):

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine and report upon the question of the proposed closing of certain Canadian National Express terminals or stations and matters related thereto.

Motion agreed to.

● (1415)

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I move, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Monday next, November 24, 1980, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Before the motion is put, honourable senators, I wish to explain that, as I indicated yesterday afternoon, we hope to have the Bank Act revisions before us on Monday. We already have the message with respect to the act, and we expect that the bill will be printed and available for consideration by honourable senators for our sitting Monday evening. It will probably be our principal order of business that evening, and we hope to be able to refer the bill to committee and so complete that stage of second reading debate on Monday evening. Our optimism is based on the fact that the committee has studied the act for some period of time and in great detail.

Senator Walker: We have studied it for years.

Senator Frith: For years, as Senator Walker points out. Nevertheless, we expect there will be some debate. But because of that substantial and long term pre-study we hope there will only be a few matters requiring further study by the committee. If, then, we are able to complete that second reading stage on Monday evening, it will mean that the committee can sit on Tuesday morning. I mention that because the chairman of the committee suggested that the Senate sit at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning to finish up the debate on second reading we hope to commence on Monday night.

Without suggesting that we must complete the debate on second reading on Monday night—and I have conferred with Senators Roblin and Macdonald on this—I emphasize that we hope to do so. In that case we could send the bill to committee on Tuesday morning and perhaps have it reported back to the house for consideration Tuesday afternoon. These targets are not hard and fast, but we do hope to make a good start on the Bank Act early in the week and thus avoid the feeling that the November 30 deadline is breathing down our necks.

Senator Asselin: So the Senate is going to be a rubber stamp as usual.

Senator Frith: Senator Asselin says that we are going to be a rubber stamp as usual, but, with respect, that comment is not appropriate in this instance. The subject matter of Bill C-6 was given a great deal of pre-study in committee, where the eventual form and wording of the bill was greatly influenced by members from both sides of the Senate.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, if I might add a word, I did have the advantage of consultations with my colleague, the Whip on this side, and with the Leader of the Government, and I do appreciate the point that Senator Asselin raises, because it presents us with our typical dilemma. The situation may be ameliorated somewhat because of the very extensive pre-study referred to, and I suppose it is reasonable to expect that we might be able to conclude second reading stage on Monday, depending, of course, on the number of senators wishing to intervene in the debate.

I can appreciate the position of those members of the Senate who are not members of the committee, because for them it may well be a relatively new matter and one cannot foreclose their options, and I know the Leader of the Government agrees with me on that. But I would say the prospects look reasonably good that we can dispose of it Monday night, and, if we do, the agenda as outlined could be followed.

Senator Frith: Also on the point raised by Senator Asselin, I want to underline that I also feel frustrated on occasions when we are stuck with deadlines. I was merely underlining that in this particular case, at least, we have had the opportunity to give a great deal of pre-study to this piece of legislation.

● (1420)

Hon. David Walker: Honourable senators, we have been studying this bill for over four years. The matter has come before us at least three times and we have made all sorts of amendments. No bill has ever received greater study and consideration than this bill, and I would be delighted to co-operate in getting it through on Monday night.

Hon. Frederick W. Rowe: Honourable senators, may I draw the attention of the Deputy Leader of the Government to the desirability of informing senators as early as possible of any change in the routine of the Senate's meetings. As it stands, the routine is that we adjourn on Thursday afternoons until Tuesday evenings, and as we approach Christmas it will become increasingly difficult for senators to change their schedules. For instance, to my discontent I just found out a