

time. Not having had a chance to look at the bill, I am a little puzzled as to exactly what we are being asked to do.

Senator Hayden: Honourable senators, I should like to supplement what I said to Senator Flynn. This bill received first reading in the House of Commons on February 10. One of the major points in the bill relates to the changing of the basis for calculation of sales tax. It proposes a change in the base from the manufacturer's price level to the wholesaler's price level. This has provoked, judging by what I read in the newspapers, very considerable interest and discussion. Obviously, if you increase the spread, as you do, between the manufacturer's and wholesaler's price, you are going to increase the tax yield and whatever the consequences are that flow from that. I expect there will probably be substantial public interest.

Senator Flynn: I don't doubt that.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSING

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE TO MAKE STUDY

Hon. Salter A. Hayden: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), I move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce be authorized to examine and consider the subject-matter of the Bill C-89, intituled: "An Act to amend the National Housing Act and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act", in advance of the said bill coming before the Senate, or any matter relating thereto.

● (2010)

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I rise on a point of order, and not to argue about the motion. As a result of the discussion on the previous motion I looked carefully at the bills that are available to me on my desk, and I find that the last numbered bill before me is Bill C-88. It seems rather strange that we should be asked to deal with Bill C-89 before it arrives on our desks.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I make the same comments I made respecting the previous motion. The point of order raised by the honourable senator is valid. We will try to have copies of these bills made available.

I hope the Chairman of the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee will be given authority to pre-study the bill, with the proviso that such pre-study does not take place until members of the Senate have had adequate opportunity to look at the bill and to prepare themselves.

Senator Smith: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Government for his reply. I pose a further question since my own recollection of this matter is not necessarily reliable: Has this bill been introduced in the Senate and, if not, what is its status in the other place?

[Senator Flynn.]

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I believe that Bill C-89 is in committee of the other place?

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I do not believe we should grant leave at this time. We shall have time to look into this matter tomorrow. If the committee wishes to commence a pre-study, it has already received leave to proceed with Bill C-93.

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

Senator Flynn: Not at this time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Leave is not granted.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF ORDER OF REFERENCE

Hon. George van Roggen, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, which was authorized by the Senate on May 14, 1980, to hear evidence on and to consider matters relating to national defence, or any subcommittee so authorized by the committee, be empowered to adjourn from place to place in Canada and in the United States for the purpose of such consideration.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

NORTHERN PIPELINE

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), I move:

That the Special Committee of the Senate on the Northern Pipeline have power to sit at three o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, March 31, 1982, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that Rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, with respect to this matter of a committee sitting on a Wednesday afternoon when the Senate is sitting, I want to make it quite clear that this was discussed with Senator Lafond. It is the only committee for which leave has been granted to sit on that particular afternoon, and according to the provisional agreement made at our meeting, the committee will probably be the only one authorized to sit on Wednesday afternoon, March 31.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): March 31?

Senator Frith: Yes.

Senator Flynn: You are certainly planning ahead!

Motion agreed to.