

Mrs. Vézina: It was done in the House. Since I do not know the details and I never had the privilege to be Speaker of the House, I would certainly not want to say here what procedure should or should not have been followed. We are faced with the obvious fact that the House passed Bill C-280 on a unanimous vote.

Neither would I like to comment on what my colleague wrote to members of Parliament.

Senator Molgat: It may have been accepted unanimously in the House but the rules of that body are surely the same regarding the royal recommendation. Otherwise we will be in a new procedural era and we will be able to use that system in the House if you, as a minister of the government, tell us that it is not necessary to have a royal recommendation in the House. I am sure that my colleagues in the House will be delighted with that statement.

Mrs. Vézina: I certainly would not want you to interpret what I said because I think that what we are trying to do, you and I here together with your colleagues, is to interpret what happened both in the House of Commons and in the Senate with respect to Bill C-280.

I come back to what I said at the beginning. Mistakes may have been made along the way; there may have been delays in the past. What is important is that we have before us a measure that finally does justice to some people who have sought it and are entitled to their due.

Senator Molgat: I fully agree with you, Madam Minister. In this process, I would not want the Senate to be put in a bad position because it followed the rules which the House should have followed but did not.

Mrs. Vézina: I will convey your message to the right person.

Senator Molgat: Thank you, Madam Minister.

• (1550)

[English]

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, if there are no further questions of my colleague, the Honourable Monique Vézina, I would thank her and her officials for their appearance here and for answering the questions. We might now excuse her while we get on with the clause-by-clause study.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, shall clause 2 carry?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall clause 3 carry?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall the title carry?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Shall I report the bill without amendment?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

[Senator Molgat.]

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the sitting of the Senate is resumed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole, to which was referred Bill C-57, to amend the Canada Pension Plan, has examined the said bill and has directed me to report the same to the Senate without amendment.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

[Translation]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MOTION TO CHANGE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, I move that the names of the Honourable Senators Cools, Corbin and LeBlanc (Beauséjour) be added to the list of senators who have been nominated to serve on the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DANGER OF SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN RELATION TO MACEDONIA

Hon. Philippe D. Gigantès: Honourable senators, last week when speaking on Macedonia, I had been misinformed on one point and I transmitted that misinformation to this house, and I regret that.

In answering questions from Senator Haidasz I spoke of a report by a committee of jurists of the European Community headed by a distinguished French jurist called Badenter, and I said that this committee had made a finding that the former Titoist Republic of Macedonia could not be recognized if it persisted in using the name "Macedonia" because that use implied territorial designs upon its neighbours.

Since then I have asked for a text of this finding by that committee and it was faxed to me. That is not what it says. It says:

[Translation]

The Republic of Macedonia has made a formal commitment, according to international law, to refrain in general, and particularly in compliance with section 49 of its Constitution, from doing any hostile propaganda against another state. This emanates from a declaration dated January 11, 1992