

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 16, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

BROADCASTING, FILMS AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ARTS

CONCURRENCE IN SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I have just been advised by the chairman of the broadcasting committee that he is ill. Therefore I ask leave of the house to present in his name the motion for concurrence in the seventh report of the standing committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have leave to make the said motion on behalf of the chairman of the committee?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Basford moved that the seventh report of the standing committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts, presented to the house on Friday, May 13, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for this procedure; I heard about this illness only 60 seconds ago.

• (2:40 p.m.)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Restigouche-Madawaska) moved:

That the first report of the standing committee on external affairs, presented to the house on Thursday, May 5, 1966, be now concurred in.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, for the reasons set out previously, we object to concurrence in this report that the 13-member quorum be cut to 10. Out of a total of 25 we believe that the house should be able to find 13 members who will make it their duty and pleasure to attend the sittings of the committee on external affairs.

If there are not 13 who are ready to attend those sittings out of the 25 designated on that

committee, I believe those who are not interested in being on the committee should be replaced.

I know the reduction of the quorum has been accepted for other committees, but in my opinion, it is time to find another solution to allow this committee to perform its work, instead of reducing its quorum.

We have already made suggestions. We see that the government did not deem it advisable to take note thereof and to make the necessary changes. Therefore, I would like to move an amendment to the motion presented by the chairman of the committee on external affairs.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That the report be referred back to the committee with a view to amending the proposal and to suggesting that a substitute be appointed for each of the members of this committee.

This is a simple proposal, Mr. Speaker. There would still be 25 members on the committee, but each member would be assisted by a substitute. If a member of the committee cannot attend the sittings of the said committee, either because he is prevented from doing so or because he is not interested, then there will be a substitute to replace him, and this will make it easier to get the required quorum of 13.

I should like to move this amendment to the effect that the report be returned to the committee on external affairs so that the latter may suggest to the house the proposal just submitted, namely the appointment of a substitute for every committee member. The substitute would not automatically be a member of the committee, but would replace ipso facto by right the committee member absent for some reason or other.

In my opinion that is a reasonable proposal. I fail to see how the government or a member of the house could object to the appointment of a substitute, so that the quorum may be maintained at 13 and the work carried out effectively.

Mr. Speaker: I make certain reservations as to the admissibility of this amendment and I would gladly hear the comments some hon. members would care to make in this connection.