

is sitting tomorrow, Tuesday, December 20, 1983, and that rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

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

● (2150)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, perhaps it would be unwise of us to give leave to approve of this matter now. I suggest that the committee meet tomorrow morning and assess the work before it and other matters relevant to the decision. We, on this side, would be prepared to discuss this matter tomorrow afternoon but not this evening.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, since leave has not been granted, the matter should be treated as a notice of motion and appear under Motions tomorrow.

Honourable senators, I am advised that two of the committees, whose composition we approved earlier on Senator Petten's motion, will be holding organization meetings tomorrow.

The Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration will hold an organization meeting at 12 noon in Room 260-N.

Senator Asselin advises me that the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will hold an organization meeting tomorrow at 11 a.m. in Room 256-S.

The Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce will hold a full meeting at 9.30 a.m., whereas the other two committee meetings will be of an organizational nature.

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, if the meeting of the Internal Economy Committee is an organizational one, it means that it does not have pressing business before it. Therefore, I would like to suggest that it choose another time.

I have to say, quite frankly, that our caucus meets at 12 noon tomorrow, and we will not be able to attend that committee meeting. Therefore, if it meets the convenience of the respective chairmen, I should like to suggest that it meet at a later time. We will probably have lots of time on Tuesday afternoon.

Senator Frith: I know, honourable senators, that the Internal Economy Committee has some urgent business to deal with tomorrow, but I am not sure that it is necessary for it to do so at 12 noon. I do not know whether Senator Graham, the past chairman of that committee, can help us in any way. I do know that there is some pressing business regarding budgets still under consideration by the committee that he had the honour to chair during the last session. Perhaps he can help us.

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, I have no authority to speak as chairman of any committee, but I can make the suggestion, as a member of the committee that was approved earlier this evening, that the committee meet at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning with respect to the organizational aspects.

I know that the revised budget of the Special Joint Committee on Senate Reform must be approved by the Internal Economy Committee. I am sure members of the committee would like to get under way with dealing with that particular budget as early as possible.

If it is agreeable to honourable senators on the other side, I am sure that the members of the committee would agree that it would be convenient to meet at 11 o'clock for a very short time.

Senator Roblin: I hate to be a nuisance on this matter, but I think that is unreasonable. If the Banking Committee meets at 9.30, and the Foreign Affairs Committee at 11.30, there will be some problem if this committee meets at 11 o'clock. What is to prevent the committee meeting after the Senate rises on Tuesday afternoon? That seems to me to be a reasonable proposition, and I suggest it for consideration.

Senator Frith: The problem is that the Standing Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources wishes to meet when the Senate rises tomorrow.

Honourable senators, perhaps we cannot settle this matter in the chamber. However, since requests have been made, perhaps the concerns of Senator Roblin will be taken into consideration by those organizing these committees to see that overlapping does not occur.

Senator Graham: For clarification, on behalf of the members of the committee, perhaps it would be in order to have the organization meeting at 1.30 p.m., if that would suit the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

Senator Roblin: I think that is very accommodating. I would be glad to accept that proposal.

Senator Frith: Therefore, honourable senators, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce will meet at 9.30 a.m. to consider the subject matter of Bill C-2; the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will have an organization meeting at 11 a.m.; the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration will meet at 1.30 p.m.; and the Standing Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will meet when the Senate rises.

Senator Roblin: That is better.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.