

about a problem that I became familiar with in a previous role that I played. I know that we have our different points of view on the approaches to what could be a preoccupation of this committee, and they are all legitimate. The one we have just heard from Senator Hastings is about an area which I do not know very well. I listened to him with great attention, as I did to my colleague, Senator Watt.

I would like to say a word about housing, because I think that you cannot look at the native peoples' problems in this country without having a look at that problem. I happen to have come across some of them when I was responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation at a time when the federal government was spending large amounts of money for social housing.

The well organized and well educated could get access to money in the name of cooperative housing described in one form or another. Retired school teachers in a large city of Canada could get together and have a 100-unit or 75-unit apartment building put up with very major investment on the part of the Government of Canada into that project. Most of us know of villages, which are by definition quite prosperous, putting up 10, 20 or 30 units of apartments for people who will retire in comfort. That is a good social policy, but I had some difficulty in getting some of my officials to focus on the real problems of the native people. Some did, but they were usually frustrated by those who looked only at the bottom line in the housing projects.

These problems were both in reserve situations and in city situations. On reserves we had housing which we would take pictures of and possibly use to convince people that we had to do more for the third world. My memory could be faulty on this, but I know that the arithmetic for reserves shows that over 50 per cent did not have a safe water-supply system for the people living on the reserves. Again, these are Canadian responsibilities. These are lands for which the Parliament of Canada is responsible. These are people for which we say the Parliament of Canada is responsible.

● (1650)

Then we have our cities, particularly our western cities, to which many young native people have moved but in which they have been involved in a very difficult housing situation. That is not something new. We do not have to reinvent the wheel. We know of the social problem that was created when the blacks moved to the northern cities in the United States; and, if we want to be colour-blind, we know of the problems caused by the movement of the people from the Appalachian regions—they were white but they were poor—when they moved to the northern cities of the United States to find work. Those problems exist today, and they also existed up to ten years ago in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina and in many of our other western cities.

I support this motion. If we have to sacrifice some of the committee activities because of a shortage of funds or of available time of senators, then we should have the courage to undertake a reduction of activities in certain areas to ensure that this committee is given sufficient funds. I hope that I will

be in a position to help provide the funding and energy required to focus on some of the issues, because we will not be able to cover all of them. I thought I should say a word about a subject that is very serious to me, the question of housing.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: If no other senator wishes to speak, I will close the debate. I simply want to thank all of those who have participated in this debate, which has elicited a great deal of information. I think it put forward, in a very clear light, the problem that exists. I believe everyone, as we listened to the eloquent presentations that were made, will agree that the committee made the right decision in proposing that the Senate adopt this report and establish this committee. I simply want to say, on behalf of the members of the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, how useful this debate has been, and I thank the participants.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to and report adopted.

[Translation]

**ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE DES
PARLEMENTAIRES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE**
SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE AMERICAS REGION—DEBATE
ADJOURNED

Hon. Paul David rose pursuant to notice of December 12, 1989:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the activities of the Canadian Section of the Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française at the Seventh Assembly of the Americas Region, held in Halifax and the Acadian Region of Southwestern Nova Scotia, from 2nd to 6th November, 1989.

He said: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table today in the Senate, and to provide a summary of, the report of the parliamentary delegation to the Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française (AIPLF) held in Nova Scotia from November 2 to 6, on the occasion of the Seventh Assembly of the Americas Region of the AIPLF. This assembly was attended by about 20 French-speaking parliamentarians from the parliaments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Louisiana. Our colleague, Senator Martial Asselin, international president of the AIPLF, honoured us with his presence throughout this very stimulating trip.

It is a pleasure to announce, honourable senators, that last June, the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia unanimously approved a request for membership in the AIPLF. The request was accepted by the AIPLF general assembly in Paris a month later. The Seventh Regional Assembly officially recognized this new section. This represents a major development in the French-speaking community in Canada and throughout the world. In fact, Nova Scotia's small French-speaking community, isolated and neglected for many years, has obtained, through its French-speaking parliamentarians in the Legislative Assembly, the recognition it needs to be able to participate