

The only difference between the modified motion and the original motion is that it is a more gentle way to put the proposition. In other words, we are inviting the minister to attend rather than requesting that he attend. If honourable senators would agree with that, I would appreciate it.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when Senator Bosa rose I thought he said he wished to amend the motion. Of course, it is quite out of order for any member to amend his own motion. However, he used the word "modify." Therefore, is it agreed that, pursuant to rule 23, Senator Bosa have permission to modify the motion before the Senate at this time?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**Senator Marshall:** Honourable senators, I move that the debate on the motion, as modified, be adjourned until the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

### NORTHERN PIPELINE

#### FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE ADOPTED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Olson, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., for the adoption of the First Report of the Special Committee of the Senate on the Northern Pipeline.—(*Honourable Senator Macdonald*).

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, may I say a word before we proceed further, because my colleague had kindly stood this motion on my behalf. I have not had a chance to tell him, or I omitted to tell him, that I was prepared to speak on the motion today. So I apologize to my honourable colleague for my oversight. Therefore, I ask leave to speak to this motion now.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, this motion is for the adoption of the first report of the Special Committee of the Senate on the Northern Pipeline. In the resolution certain expansions of the responsibilities of the committee are requested.

The government has been looking at the question of energy in total and not just from a pipeline perspective. The government has been looking at the whole energy problem that the nation is facing today. We have come to the opinion that it might be in the national interest—perhaps it is the responsibility of the Senate—to set up a committee to study the whole field of energy and, perhaps, other resources as well. So we have given some thought to framing an appropriate resolution to submit to this house in due course. We intend to suggest that instead of adding another committee—because we have a problem now in trying to man our committees—we would fold in, if I can use that expression, the present Special Committee of the Senate on the Northern Pipeline, and perhaps adopt

some of the ideas expressed by Senator Bell in her resolution on natural resources, which has yet to be discussed. We anticipate encompassing them all in a new standing committee of the Senate primarily devoted to energy.

I have had the advantage of being able to discuss this idea with Senator Olson and other members of the Senate. We have come to the conclusion that it might be well to make provision for the present committee, with its expanded powers as requested in the present resolution, to proceed so that there would be no lapse or falling short of the capacity of that committee to act.

● (1600)

I gave notice that in the new year, hopefully soon after our resumption of work, I would introduce a resolution that would bring forward this idea of an energy committee for the house. That would be debated in the usual course, and if it were accepted it would naturally be picked up by the Senate Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, which would get down to the business of defining the exact terms of reference of this committee, its relationship to the other committees of the house, and consider the possibility of folding in the Special Committee of the Senate on the Northern Pipeline and Senator Bell's idea about national resources into this new standing committee that is proposed.

I have expressed those views to Senator Olson and have told him that we would be pleased to have him proceed with his motion today, and hopefully get it approved, so he can get on with the particular job that he is engaged in, and later on next year we would bring in a wider resolution encompassing the whole energy field, and perhaps some other resources as well. I wanted to make that explanation and to say that we support the motion.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It is my duty to inform the Senate that if Senator Olson speaks now his speech will have the effect of closing debate on the motion.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, I do not want to add much to what Senator Roblin has said about the discussion we had, except to endorse that what he said is an accurate reflection of my impression of our discussion.

We on this side of the house would be happy to entertain a motion to set up a committee that would include all of these things, even to the extent of energy, mines and resources, that are at present referred to other committees.

We realize, however, that the procedure and process we must go through to set up a standing committee obviously involves changing the rules of this house rather significantly, and the requirement that certain references that are now automatically referred to certain committees would have to be modified. While I do not know precisely at this point what specific references would have to come out of which committee, I do know that there are at least two standing committees, and perhaps more, whose terms of reference would have to be modified before all of the things that we, and I think Senator Roblin, envisage could go into the regular rules of this house;