

for the message from the initiating house, thus avoiding the crossing of messages somewhere in between.

Senator Flynn: That practice is not sacrosanct. I don't see why we should wait for them. If it is the view of the Deputy Leader of the Government that we should instruct or authorize, or whatever he says, the committee to televise its proceedings, I do not see why we should wait and necessarily have to join with the other place. We can express our own view. For instance, if they do not send us a message, if the motion in the other place is defeated, why should we not say that as far as we are concerned we are prepared to have the committee proceed with the televising of its proceedings? I suggest it is very simple. To calm the worries of my good friend Senator Robichaud, I would say that we are prepared to give leave to any motion that may be moved this afternoon. I should also inform him that in my view—and I think that the Clerk would confirm—there are not three readings of a resolution.

● (1430)

Senator Frith: As I understand it, we will need leave, in any event, to proceed to consideration of the message when it arrives.

Senator Flynn: It is given in advance.

Senator Frith: I would ask honourable senators, in view of the time, to follow what has been the practice and await the message, and thus avoid any contretemps between them and us on this question.

Senator Flynn: There is no contretemps.

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I would urge the deputy leader to reconsider the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, that we proceed, by leave, to deal with this matter now.

Senator Flynn: Right away.

Senator Roblin: Unless the Deputy Leader of the Government is prepared to give us his assurance that we will receive this message from the other place before we rise today.

Senator Flynn: Then we won't need it.

Senator Roblin: I would be prepared to go as far as to say that if we can get the message today we could proceed with the matter expeditiously. If we do not get it before we rise today, then we do not meet again until Tuesday night, which means a long, long weekend intervening, and no television on Monday and Tuesday, and probably Wednesday, while some of us are anxious to get the televising of proceedings in line as quickly as possible. Could the honourable senator give us an assurance that we will get the message this afternoon and have an opportunity to deal with it?

Senator Frith: At this point, of course, there is no matter before us. All I have done, in elaboration of a matter that was raised—namely, the question that was put to the joint chairman of the special joint committee—is to say that I have been informed that such a message might be received pursuant to a motion that I expect will be moved in the other place. Therefore, we do not really have anything to deal with, in that sense.

The question of the Senate's consideration of the televising of the committee's proceedings has not really been raised in the Senate. That is the reason I believe it to be a much clearer and more acceptable practice, since all we are doing is anticipating something, to wait until that initiative is taken in the other place. If it is, we can then deal with it in that context rather than as we have been dealing with the possibility of its arriving here.

Senator Roblin: I suggest that is not a very satisfactory course to follow, because the honourable senator has given us no assurance at all that we will receive the proposal from the other place this afternoon. I think it is becoming quite important that we should move on this now.

The Deputy Leader of the Government says we have no matter before us. Would he be prepared to give leave if we on this side were to produce a resolution with respect to television and the other media, so that we could deal with it this afternoon and express our view, and allow the committee, as far as the Senate is concerned, to get on with televising its proceedings?

Senator Frith: It seems to me an obvious corollary to the fact that we would prefer to deal with the message when it is received from the other place that I would not wish to give leave to consider the matter in anticipation, but would rather await the message from the other place and deal with it when it arrives.

Senator Roblin: Has the honourable senator had any consultations with his colleagues in the other place that would enable him to tell this house when it will receive the message?

Senator Frith: No, I cannot tell the house when the message will be received, but perhaps I can estimate when it might be received. The consultation I have had with colleagues in the other place confirms what I already have said.

Senator Flynn: Colleagues?

Senator Frith: Yes. Are we going to pick up the word "colleagues"? Let's have it.

Senator Flynn: I was just curious to find out who the colleagues were.

Senator Roblin: What do the colleagues say?

Senator Frith: The answer to Senator Roblin's question is that the plan is to move this motion at the end of Question Period in the other place. I understand the motion has received support from the three leaders there, and it is not anticipated that it will be debated at length. In fact it is anticipated that it will be adopted quickly, and that we will receive the message shortly after 3 o'clock.

● (1435)

That is the estimation, and, of course, it is also the reason why I cannot give an assurance as to if or when. I think it is a very good bet that we will receive it by 3:30 this afternoon. However, I cannot guarantee what somebody else is going to do.

Senator Asselin: And if we don't?