

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: With leave, now.

Honourable senators, perhaps the consideration of this report should be left until Senator Hayden returns.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: It is a long report and there are several amendments. I think it would be only fair to give senators who are not members of the committee an opportunity to consider them.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I move that the report be taken into consideration at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN THE SENATE GALLERY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have pleasure in bringing to your attention the fact that we have in the Senate gallery very distinguished colleagues and Members of Parliament from Australia. We had the pleasure of meeting with this delegation earlier today, and on your behalf I expressed the hope that the very warm ties between Canada and Australia may continue for many years to come.

On behalf of all honourable senators, may I say to our guests how pleased we are to have them visit us and to express the hope that this visit will be pleasant to them and beneficial to both our countries.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF CANADIAN SENATE AT CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETINGS, STRASBOURG, AND VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA— DEBATE ADJOURNED

On the inquiry of Hon. Mr. Martin:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the visit of members of the Senate of Canada to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, and the visit of the Speaker of the Senate, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and the Chairman of Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs to Czechoslovakia.

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, may I associate myself with the words of His Honour the Speaker in extending a warm

welcome to the members of the Parliamentary delegation from Australia, and in the name of the Government may I say how pleased and how honoured we are to have this delegation in Canada at this time.

Before I report on my own behalf about our recent visit to the Council of Europe and to Czechoslovakia, I should like to say to Senator O'Leary how pleased we are on both sides of this house to see him in his seat again.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Martin: He has just returned, as we all know, from hospital. He and I were inmates of that institution at the same time. I had the capacity for a quicker recovery, but I am not sure that I look as well or as healthy as he does on his first day back.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Maybe you should have stayed longer.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, in April of this year Dr. Dalibor Hanes, Chairman of the House of Nations of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, renewed a long-standing invitation to the Speaker of the Senate to head a working delegation from this chamber on a visit to Czechoslovakia, to take place, as indeed it did, in May. It was decided that the delegation would proceed to Czechoslovakia following the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and that, in addition to the Speaker, it would include Senator Flynn, Leader of the Opposition, Senator Aird, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and me, as Leader of the Government in the Senate.

[*Translation*]

Honourable senators, our visit to Czechoslovakia from May 18 to 22 was pleasant and informative. We had the opportunity of meeting and talking with some members of the Government, including Alexander Dubcek, the President of the Federal Assembly. We have pleasant memories of our visit and are sympathetic to the political and economic problems with which Czechoslovakia is faced.

[*English*]

I need not give honourable senators a lesson in geography, but it might be useful to recall that Czechoslovakia is bordered on the northwest by Germany, on the northeast by Poland, on the southwest by Austria, and on the southeast and east by Hungary and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. Its population is roughly 14½ million, of which