

necessary in this chamber to speed up certain procedures so that we may accomplish the task at hand. Unanimous consent may not be granted.

I, for one, will review each case individually. It will be my way to put pressure on the Chrétien government so that it speeds up the review of the issue of the Collège militaire de St-Jean. The Leader of the Government should take this notice into account even if I arouse the ire of some honourable senators on both sides of the chamber by encouraging the Senate to sit a few days longer. The government's reaction on this issue could probably change the way I proceed. You will have understood, honourable senators, that on this side of the chamber one must fight with the arms at one's disposal.

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I can assure Senator Simard that I never take anything for granted, no matter what the circumstances. Of course, senators are always free to agree or disagree with the government, and I respect their right to do so.

On the other hand, I will try to keep the Senate up to date regarding what I know and what we can expect, and it will be up to the honourable senators to decide.

Like Senator Simard, I spent several years in a provincial legislative assembly, and I know from experience that you can never take anything for granted.

[English]

Motion agreed to.

• (1420)

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

### NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO ENGAGE SERVICES

**Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell:** Honourable senators, I give notice that on Wednesday next, March 23, 1994, I will move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications have power to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purpose of its examination and consideration of such bills, subject-matters of bills and estimates as are referred to it.

## PRIVATE BILL

### CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS—PRESENTATION OF PETITION

**Hon. H.A. Olson:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a petition from Garth Wagner of the city of Calgary in the province of Alberta and others, praying for the passage of an Act to Incorporate the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations.

[ Senator Simard ]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL— PRESENTATION OF PETITION

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to table petitions with 580 names, showing the support of the people of Canada for the Canadian Vietnam veterans' national memorial.

Honourable senators, without going into the whole petition, perhaps I will read paragraph 3, which will explain the purpose of the petition:

WHEREAS this memorial will be a fitting tribute to those courageous Canadian men and women who sacrificed their lives serving as members of the United States Armed Forces in Southeast Asia. The pain that is felt at the loss of lives in war may be eased by the knowledge that the deeds of those taken from us are not to be forgotten. For the devotion exhibited while in military service, each person whose name appears on the memorial deserves nothing less than our respect and admiration.

WHEREFORE the undersigned, your Petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada to provide a suitable site in the Nation's Capital.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

#### APPOINTMENT AND COMPETENCE OF CHAIRMAN— GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I do have a preamble to my question, but I am sure even Senator Olson would allow it since it is from his party's Red Book.

...the Conservatives made a practice of choosing political friends when making the thousands of appointments to boards, commissions, and agencies that the cabinet is required by law to carry out... To fill the vacancies that remain, a Liberal government will review the appointment process to ensure that necessary appointments are made on the basis of competence.

That is from the Red Book which is still available, strangely enough, despite all its contradictions of reality.

I would ask whether the Leader of the Government can confirm that the appointment of Robert Nixon, a former leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, former Treasurer of Ontario in its last Liberal government, longtime prominent, active and faithful supporter of the Liberal Party of Canada, as chairman of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited meets the criteria set out in the Red Book; namely that Mr. Nixon is not a political friend and that the appointment is based on competence.