

For your information, honourable senators, the greater part by far of Bill S-8 is as originally tabled. There has been significant support from the various industry groups, and from environmentalists and others who are interested parties, to see that the legislation proceeds. The thrust of this legislation remains to make existing Canadian motor vehicle safety and emission control regulations more efficient for the rest of this century and beyond.

For those reasons, honourable senators, I would request that the bill as amended by the other place be accepted and approved once and for all so that the next step can commence — that is, bringing our regulations up to date, thus enhancing the safety of our Canadian travelling public.

Senator Molgat: Honourable senators, I thank Senator Oliver for his explanation. As I said prior to his comments, it is our view that the matter should be referred back to committee. In other words, as a standard practice, when new amendments come forward they should be looked at in committee to see how they affect the bill in other respects, and so on. The chamber is not in a position to do that adequately.

However, we have a slight procedural problem in that the motion was for concurrence. If we could amend the motion, and if my honourable friend wishes to do so, and refer it back to committee, we would have no problems.

Senator Murray: It can be withdrawn, with leave.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Rather than amending the motion, we will consent to your withdrawing it.

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN COMMONS AMENDMENTS
WITHDRAWN

Hon. Donald H. Oliver: I would be prepared to withdraw the motion, with leave.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): We are prepared to give leave to have the motion withdrawn.

Motion withdrawn.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald H. Oliver: Honourable senators, I move that Bill S-8, the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended by the House of Commons, be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications for further study.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): To study the amendments, yes.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Oliver, seconded by the Honourable Senator Johnson, that Bill S-8, as amended by the House of Commons, be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Is it the Transport and Communications committee or Legal?

Senator Frith: Transportation and Communications.

Senator Molgat: Yes, that is fine.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Senator Murray: It is the message.

Senator Frith: It should be the message.

Senator Molgat: When the bill was before us previously, it was studied by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee, not by Transport and Communications; but I have no objection, provided it will be studied by a committee.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, do we stand by the motion to refer the matter to the Transport and Communications committee?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

On motion of Senator Oliver, bill as amended referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications.