

What irritates me more than all this is the fact that the decision was made unilaterally and at least to my knowledge, without consulting this house. I think we must pursue the matter and settle this issue as quickly as possible.

[English]

• (1430)

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** Honourable senators, we have learned from this situation that, should we decide to join the House of Commons on another committee, we must ensure that the rules of neither house prevail over those of the other.

The committee has been disbanded, its function having been accomplished, its report having been tabled. The three volumes are the official report of the committee. If the House of Commons feels, by its own rules, that the report should be reprinted in a different fashion, let them do so. However, this place should not be committed by their orders. At the same time, let them reprint it at their own expense.

**Senator MacEachen:** Will we have the money to produce ours?

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** We have paid for ours.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, a point of order has been raised by the Honourable Senator MacEachen. It is both extremely interesting and very important. It is indeed a unique event that both co-chairmen have ended up in this chamber; an event which will likely not repeat itself.

Insofar as the specific point raised by Senator MacEachen, I wish to assure the house that there has been no consultation with me by the House of Commons in this regard. To the best of my knowledge, neither was there any consultation with my predecessor. However, the point having been raised, and insofar as the specific point of the present ruling is concerned, I will undertake to find out whatever I can in that regard.

Regarding the broader question raised in the debate, "What controls joint committees?" I assume that would come under the jurisdiction of the Standing Committee on Privileges, Standing Rules and Orders and not under my direct jurisdiction. With respect to the specific point, however, I will collect all the information I can and report back to the Senate.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BILL

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. Colin Kenny,** Deputy Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, presented the following report:

Wednesday, November 30, 1994

The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources has the honour to present its

[ Senator Gauthier ]

## NINTH REPORT

Your Committee, to which was referred the Bill C-48, An Act to establish the Department of Natural Resources and to amend related acts, has, in obedience to its Order of Reference of Tuesday, November 29, 1994, examined the said Bill and has agreed to report the same without amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

COLIN KENNY  
Deputy Chairman

## THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Colin Kenny:** With leave of the Senate, and notwithstanding rule 58(1)(b), I move that the bill be read the third time now.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

### NATIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

**By the Honourable Senator Twinn:**

21st June, 1994—That he will call the attention of the Senate to the issues surrounding native self-government and the work he has been doing in this area over the past several months.

**Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, this inquiry in the name of Senator Twinn has the number 14 beside it, which means that, in the ordinary course of events, it will reach number 15 tomorrow and be dropped from the Order Paper.

As we all know, Senator Twinn has been away convalescing, and is doing very well. He plans to be back here next Wednesday and wishes to speak to this inquiry at that time. I would ask, with leave, that this inquiry be permitted to stand on the Order Paper, in spite of the fact that the 15 days have expired, and I make that request on behalf of Senator Twinn.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Order stands.