

Banking Committee until it has received second reading." Senator Frith went on to say—and I know that he is one who is consistent in his feelings on principles—

Senator Frith: Don't count on that.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: —that, when dealing with complicated legislation, it is consistent with parliamentary tradition that the Senate committees give particularly careful consideration to such measures as to refer the subject matter to a committee in advance. I don't think I could find a finer reference.

Senator Frith: He was much less distinguished then than now.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: In brief, honourable senators—

Senator Frith: At least his judgment was impaired at the time.

I move the adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. the Speaker: It was moved by the Honourable Senator Lynch-Staunton, seconded by the Honourable Senator Roblin that the Standing Senate Committee on—

Senator Frith: No, I moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. the Speaker: Do I not have to put the motion first?

Senator Frith: I hope you put the motion before you let Senator Lynch-Staunton go on and on the way he did. That was a bit unkind.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: I did not go on and on.

Senator Frith: I retract. He only went on; he did not go on and on.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I will put the motion first.

Senator Frith: You should have put it before he spoke.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Lynch-Staunton, seconded by the Honourable Senator Roblin:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine the subject-matter of Bill C-62, an Act respecting telecommunications, in advance of the said bill coming before the Senate or any matter relating thereto.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I move that Senator Lynch-Staunton's comments be taken as read after the motion was put and I then move the adjournment of the debate.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Thank you.

On motion of Senator Frith, debate adjourned.

[Senator Lynch-Staunton.]

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THIRD REPORT—RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS—POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have some difficulty with the results of the third report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, which I tabled on February 18 last. My report urged the government to table, without further delay, the response to the recommendations contained in the report, "Its Almost Too Late", and to announce its decision to implement forthwith at least the first three recommendations, which concern the plight of the merchant seamen.

I was given support for the report by Senator Molgat, Senator Roblin, Senator Kinsella and Senator David, although the thrust changed. There was a suggestion by Senator Molgat that I should probably include an invitation to the minister to appear before the Senate. Senator Roblin countered that he should appear before the Senate Sub-committee on Veterans Affairs. The end result was that we adopted the report unanimously. However, I still do not know where I stand with respect to who invites the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Do I do it on behalf of the sub-committee? Does Senator David do it as the chairman of the Social Affairs, Science and Technology committee, or does the Speaker do it on behalf of the Senate? If the intention is to invite the minister to appear before a Committee of the Whole, then I would like advice as to the position of the Senate. I am willing to write to the minister, but I would ask for some direction in the matter.

Hon. Paul David: It was my impression, Senator Marshall, that the recommendation was that the minister should be invited to the Sub-committee of Veterans Affairs, but I am told that the invitation should come from the chairman of the committee itself. Therefore, I will take this responsibility.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): As far as we are concerned we will be quite happy to have the minister appear before a Committee of the Whole. That would permit all senators to participate in questioning the minister and hearing what he has to say on this important subject. We would be quite happy if the invitation was to the Committee of the Whole. In fact, we would prefer that to having it in the committee itself.

Senator David: But the same result could be achieved in a committee. We know that such an invitation will go to the minister; he will come to the committee and then all senators can attend the committee. In that way there will be as many senators at the committee as there would be in the house, I think.

[Translation]

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON A RENEWED CANADA

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Report of the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada, dated 28th February, 1992 (Sessional Paper 343-416A).