

That the Committee be empowered to appoint, from among its Members, such subcommittees as may be deemed advisable, and to delegate to such subcommittees all or any of its power, except the power to report to the Senate and House of Commons;

That the Committee be empowered to authorize television and radio broadcasting of any or all of its proceedings;

That the Committee present its final report no later than October 31, 1995;

That, notwithstanding usual practices of this House, if the Senate is not sitting when the final report of the Committee is completed, the report may be deposited with the Clerk of the Senate and it shall thereupon be deemed to have been presented to the Senate; and

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint that House accordingly.

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

Hon. Marcel Prud'Homme: I have a question on this matter, honourable senators. The motion says "That a Message be sent to the House of Commons." The House of Commons is not sitting. However, it does not stipulate that, even though the House is not sitting, the message will be received, et cetera. I am of the opinion that nothing can start before the House of Commons receives the message from the Senate. I have checked on this, and the majority of my advisers tell me that I am totally right.

Such a message from the Senate must be received by the House of Commons when it is in session. Therefore, we can reserve our judgment as to what we would like to say. I sat on that committee for a year and a half with many honourable senators here. Once again, I stand to be corrected, but I should like to know how we intend to dispose of this matter.

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): This is an interesting point raised by Senator Prud'homme. I presume that the procedure would be to ask the Selection Committee of the Senate to meet and name the members of the committee, and to inform the other place. That opportunity will be available when we have Royal Assent for the legislation that we anticipate will require Royal Assent in the near future.

The Hon. the Speaker: I might point out that the message from the House of Commons did name their members; therefore, no further action is required by the House of Commons. Once the Senate names its members, the committee will be constituted.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the consideration of the Final Report of the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, entitled: "Of Life and Death," tabled in the Senate on June 6, 1995.—(*Honourable Senator Keon*).

Hon. Wilbert J. Keon: Honourable senators, I should like to make a few remarks concerning the report of the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide which was tabled in the Senate on June 6.

First and foremost, I should like to express my gratitude to the hundreds of Canadian citizens — private individuals, health caregivers, legal, religious and other professional communities — who invested considerable time and effort either to appear before the committee or to prepare submissions to send to us. I believe that the quality of their contributions added a great deal to the deliberations of the committee. The diversity of their views are reflected in the committee's report.

I must congratulate our chairman, Senator Neiman, for the enormous effort she put forward to keep the deliberations focused and make this report possible. Our vice-chair, Senator Lavoie-Roux, also made enormous efforts to reflect the very strongly held convictions of those opposed to changes in the current laws on assisted suicide and euthanasia. This, coupled with the contributions of the committee members, resulted in a very balanced report containing a tremendous amount of information which will make a major contribution to Canadian society.

Indeed, I have had the opportunity of discussing this report at length with medical centres across Canada by teleconference. Health professionals across the country were deeply appreciative of its contents.

The subject-matters of the committee's mandate have become, in recent years, a very significant issue of public and political debate. They are very difficult issues to resolve, and that difficulty was evident both in the testimony and submissions our committee received and in the recommendations the committee members have reported.