

the ruling. I think it should stand on the order paper without the adjournment until the Speaker rules.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, is it agreed?

Senator Frith: No, honourable senators. I agree in a way with Senator Roblin. Certainly if we adjourn the debate until the next sitting of the Senate, when it comes up on the order paper, it will appear as "the motion" and "in amendment." I agree that if at that point the Speaker has not ruled, it will stand over. However, I think that we should adjourn it until the next sitting in the hope that we will have that ruling tomorrow. If we do not, I agree that we will not proceed.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

On motion of Senator MacEachen, debate adjourned.

INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

CONSIDERATION OF SIXTEENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE— DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration (budget of Agriculture and Forestry), presented in the Senate on June 9, 1987.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I move that the report be adopted.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator Langlois, that the report be now adopted. Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

Hon. Duff Roblin: Honourable senators, if I have found the correct place on the order paper, we are now dealing with these reports of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration that have to do with allocations of funds to committees. If that is the case, could we be brought up to date as to where we stand? Since the new fiscal year began, we have had substantial appropriations for committees, and my hunch is that we may have substantially overspent the budget that was set up for this matter in the first place.

It is a bit difficult to know where the matter falls when we see half a dozen resolutions with different sums. No doubt we could get a roundup on it to find out how much money we budgeted for and how much money we have allocated up to the present time. I do not know whether it is worth looking into the future, but there may be some other demands on our budget that are foreseeable.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I can assure Senator Roblin that we have not overspent our original budget for committees.

Senator Roblin: But you have over-appropriated.

[Senator Roblin.]

Senator Frith: However, it is true that if these reports are all adopted, and if each committee spends the full amount allocated, we will be over the budget and will require supplementary estimates to carry on the work of our committees.

If Senator Roblin wants details of that, I would be glad to adjourn the debate and give him the figures tomorrow, but I can tell him that that is the situation. If he wants the actual figures to reflect that situation, I would be glad to adjourn the debate and bring it forward tomorrow.

Senator Roblin: If I could answer the question, I would say that I would be obliged to my friend if he would do that. I am interested to know the total amount of money appropriated, because it is my guess that if it is appropriated, the odds are fairly good that it will have been mostly spent. I want to know where we stand and whether a supplementary estimate appears probable. If, at the same time, my friend can give me any sort of forecast as to where he thinks we will end up, I would be glad to have that, because it looks to me as if we will be substantially over budget.

Senator Frith: I have been given some figures that may be sufficient for Senator Roblin, but he may want a breakdown.

Senator Marshall: They are in the minutes of the committee.

Senator Frith: If the committees spend 100 per cent of this budget, the Senate will be about \$660,000 over the original budget for its committee work.

Senator Roblin: What was the original budget?

Senator Frith: I do not have that figure, but I have something else which I will provide.

In past fiscal years we have spent between 60 to 70 per cent of our budget. We need the original figure so that we can make the comparison.

Senator Marshall: Are the figures not in the minutes?

Senator Frith: The figures are contained in the minutes of the Internal Economy Committee. If Senator Roblin wanted them discussed here, then that is where I planned to get them. However, Senator Roblin is right, they are not shown in these reports. In other words, you have to do the arithmetic. The arithmetic has been done, and these totals have been worked out, and \$660,000 would be the amount over budget if the committees spent all of their allocations. That has never happened in the past; it has always come to about 60 or 70 per cent. However, for Senator Roblin to know exactly how that 60 or 70 per cent works out in comparison with the \$660,000, we will have to have what the budget was and the allocation for it.

Hon. Hazen Argue: Honourable senators, it is my understanding on the points that have been raised that the 60 or 70 per cent of the appropriations which have been spent in the past are history, and those are facts based on past experience. However, am I not correct in saying that when we come for an appropriation for the Senate that it is a rather general appropriation, and if we do not spend money on one particular detail