

the outline I have sketched is a fair summary of what we are expected to do in the next little while.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, we did consider the other scenarios which Senator Roblin quite properly says exist. Although there is no overpowering reason why those other scenarios were not accepted, allow me to explain why an adjournment until the week after next was chosen.

It is possible that during that week we may receive something on the income tax amendments. That would at least enable us to make a reference of the income tax amendments to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce for a pre-study. I was unable to obtain any information that would encourage me to believe that we could do so next week, so I chose the following week.

On the question of the sitting of the Senate on Monday next rather than on Tuesday, I think I explained that; if we are to adopt the report of the Committee of Selection on Monday night, the committees would thereby be given more time to meet and there would be less likelihood of an overlapping of the scheduled meetings. We are hoping that the Committee of Selection will meet on Monday before the Senate sits, so that its report will be ready for Monday evening. This would allow the other committees at least two mornings and an evening in which to conduct their business.

Therefore, while I cannot say that any of Senator Roblin's suggestions are unreasonable, perhaps, on balance, it is better to follow the program I outlined earlier.

Honourable senators, with respect to our return in January, I have no trouble with the Senate's sitting on Tuesday rather than on Monday. Perhaps we will discuss this matter further when we sit again the week after next.

**Hon. Daniel Riley:** Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege. When Senator Frith read the motion in respect of setting up a new committee—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Senator Riley, we are discussing another motion. You may rise after that.

**Senator Riley:** I rise on a question of privilege.

**Senator Frith:** Senator Riley, perhaps we could finish speaking to this motion—

**Hon. Charles McElman:** This is a question of privilege.

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** What kind of privilege are we speaking about?

**Senator Riley:** I am speaking on a motion of Senator Frith which was misunderstood by me and, I am sure, by others.

When Senator Frith made a motion regarding the setting up of the new committee on Senate reform, I was present in the chamber. I did not listen to the interpretation at the time and I must confess that I sometimes find it difficult to follow Senator Frith when he speaks the other official language. I seem to follow other people more easily.

I had no intention of stopping the discussion on this particular motion, but I noticed that, when His Honour the Speaker

was about to read the motion again, some honourable senators said "Dispense."

Honourable senators, I did not gather the full import of the motion. I would be happy to hear it discussed. Rather than embarrass any of my fellow senators, particularly Senator Frith, the Acting Leader of the Government, I will say that I would be disposed to having discussion on the motion proceed at this time, if that is agreeable to honourable senators. I may have some questions regarding the motion. I know, from speaking about this with other honourable senators, that questions are in their minds as well. I do not know if the wording of this motion is the same as that in the motion setting up the committee in the last session.

In my view we are entitled to full comprehension of the motion. I think we should be able to study the motion properly before anyone says "Dispense." I am sure that many honourable senators would agree.

• (1420)

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, I would be pleased to ask for unanimous consent to revert to Notices of Motions, but first I should like the motion now before us disposed of.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It is moved by the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator Langlois, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Monday, December 19, 1983, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

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

Motion agreed to.

## REFORM OF THE SENATE

### MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE AGREED TO

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

**Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with reference to the motion which was proposed earlier relating to the re-establishment of the Joint Committee on Senate Reform, I point out, before turning the floor over to Senator Riley, that the motion is a repetition of the one which was passed in the preceding session establishing the Special Joint Committee on Reform of the Senate. Since it is a special committee, it does not fall within the procedures of the Committee of Selection. Senators presently serving on the committee have been nominated to serve again, and Senator Molgat, the joint chairman of the committee, would like to continue the work of the committee immediately. The only other change is that the date by which the committee has to report is January 31, 1984, rather than December 1, 1983.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, there is a tricky problem which at present I do not quite see my way through, and I would appreciate the opinion of Senator McElman and other honourable senators who are interested in the rules. Where do we stand on this