

public interest. As I recall, it was the present Minister of Transport, the Honourable Donald Mazankowski, who some five years ago initiated the Grange inquiry, or summoned it into existence, in order to look into this matter. I hope my memory serves me correctly on this point.

Senator Thompson is quite right in that his question does not fall within my particular area of responsibility. It covers a number of technical matters which I am unable to answer, in any case. Thus, I certainly will have to take his question as notice and get back to him as quickly as I can.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEES

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND COMPOSITION

Hon. John M. Godfrey: Honourable senators, I am inspired to ask a question of the chairman of the Committee of Selection, having looked at the report of that committee. I do not think he will be able to answer my question immediately.

My first point is with respect to the Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament. I would be interested to know when that committee met last and how many times it has met in the last 10 years. I suspect it has not met once over the last 20 years. Why do we continue to appoint senators to sit on that committee?

I wish to ask a similar question with respect to the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament. Can senators be provided with some statistics with respect to when that committee last met and how many times it has met in the last 10 years? Why do we go through this rigmarole every year?

My final question is with respect to the Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments, in which I have a particular interest. I notice that only six senators have been appointed to that committee, when there is provision for eight. Was it not possible to dig up another couple of senators to fill the vacancies on that committee?

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, I will make every effort to obtain the dates of the committee meetings for Senator Godfrey. I suppose the reason senators are appointed to the committees mentioned by Senator Godfrey is because the rules of this place require it. As long as the rules exist we will attempt to appoint senators to sit on those committees.

With respect to the Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments, there was some confusion. I will not say that confusion emanated from the majority side of the house; but I will say there was some confusion. I believe it can be cleared up within the next three or four days.

THE CABINET

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADER OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate concerning the questions posed by Senators Grafstein and Thompson. Twice, the Leader of the Government in the Senate stated that the question did

[Senator Roblin.]

not relate to his particular area of responsibility in the government. Does that mean that he has some areas of responsibility in the government other than that of Leader of the Government in the Senate?

● (1450)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I often wonder why my honourable friend did not address that question to some of my predecessors in this post. However, I think he will be able to corroborate my testimony, which is that it is considered that the management of the Senate is a sufficient job for any one individual to try and tackle.

Senator Frith: I would have thought so and therefore can we assume that, apart from the responsibility for accepting all questions that are posed in the Senate to the government, there is no other special area of responsibility that the government leader has?

Senator Roblin: I am not quite sure to what end my friend's question is leading, but I can tell him that I shall do my best to answer any question addressed to me, drawing on whatever knowledge I have at my disposal.

Hon. John M. Godfrey: I gather from the answer to that question that the Leader of the Government in the Senate is not a member of any cabinet committees that have special responsibilities in certain areas.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I must advise my honourable friend that I am a member of a number of cabinet committees, but I am not vested with an executive portfolio in the sense that other ministers are. My portfolio might be termed a parliamentary one, in much the same fashion as that of the house leader in the other place. Therefore, I do not have departmental responsibilities as such but, as a cabinet member, I share collective responsibility.

Hon. Hazen Argue: You are, therefore, a member of the cabinet?

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): And an excellent choice.

THE SENATE

OFFICE OF LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT

Hon. Andrew Thompson: I would like to ask the Leader of the Government a question. I recall when he spoke on the subject of an elected Senate, that he spoke, as he always does, with verve, eloquence, great conviction and commitment. I am sure all of us take considerable pride in his appointment to his present position as Leader of the Government. At the time of his speech on Senate reform, I recall that his concern about not having an elected Senate was because he felt an appointed Senate did not provide proper legitimacy. With respect to his present appointment, I would ask whether he feels there would be greater legitimacy if he had a consensus following from election by his colleagues in his own caucus and, if so, whether he has considered doing that.