

such a reaction from our worthy opponents in this chamber, and taking into consideration the thorough study of the bill by our committee, I would not object to this bill being read a third time today without further ado.

The Hon. the Speaker: Senator Langlois has drawn attention to what he regards as a serious typographical error in the report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. Is it agreed, honourable senators, and is it your wish, that correction be made as necessary?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I expect that the sponsor of the bill is going to ask that this bill be read a third time later today.

I should just like to ask the sponsor or the Leader of the Government if they are going to take the comments of Senator Langlois seriously and attempt to do something about these \$1 items that are constantly being criticized, not only by honourable members opposite when they were on this side but certainly over and over again in the other place by opposition members of all parties.

● (1550)

We now find a new government justifying a position of trying, without real parliamentary scrutiny, to amend this problem of coming along with dollar items that turn out to be hundreds of millions of dollars. We may let it go today, but I should like some assurance from the members opposite that this will not become a habit. This same thing has been happening for the past 20 years. Dollar items do not mean that at all. It is only an authority. What comes later are estimates and supplementaries, which are the real costs of these programs. We have not been given any indication, either, that the government has done an analysis to determine the anticipated costs of these programs, or at least it is not levelling with members of both houses to indicate the full scope of what it is asking for.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: I wish to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Doody speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I will not take much of your time. I should simply like to comment on the worries and problems of the honourable members opposite who are concerned about \$1 votes. Indeed, I can say sincerely that I and my colleagues share that concern. It has been an ongoing concern for some time, as has been pointed out. This matter was raised in committee and we spent some time struggling with the problem.

Honourable senators, I should like to assure you that this matter has been brought forcefully to the attention of the members of the other place and to the attention of officials responsible for the administration of these departments.

The idea of it taking 20 years for the present administration to correct it is a tantalizing thought and one which I look

[Senator Langlois.]

forward to with some anticipation, but I really think it will not take us that long. I rather suspect that, although we may have 20 years to work on it, we certainly will be able to manage it in a shorter period of time.

I have absolutely no intention of raising the spectre of blaming the errors and omissions on the previous administration. I realize how sensitive honourable members opposite are in that respect, and I know the reason for it. I certainly will not belabour the obvious. I simply commend the bill to your favourable consideration.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read a third time?

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b), I move that the bill be read a third time now.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

MULTICULTURALISM

MODIFIED MOTION REQUESTING MINISTER OF STATE TO APPEAR BEFORE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND SCIENCE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

On the Order:

That the Senate request that the Minister of State for Multiculturalism appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science within the next ten days to explain the government's reversal in its policy on multiculturalism, as announced during last spring's election campaign, to the effect that the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism would have the direct authority to decide upon applications for funding from various ethnocultural groups across the country.—(*Honourable Senator Marshall*).

Senator Bosa: Honourable senators, with the permission of Senator Marshall and with leave of the Senate, I would ask that, pursuant to rule 23, I be allowed to amend or modify my motion. The modified motion would read as follows:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science be authorized to invite the Minister of State for Multiculturalism to appear before that Committee at its earliest convenience to explain the government's reversal in its policy on multiculturalism, as announced during last spring's election campaign, to the effect that the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism would have the direct authority to decide upon applications for funding from various ethnocultural groups across the country.