

Senator MacEachen: That is right.

Senator Phillips: Fine; I am glad to hear we are making progress.

Senator MacEachen: Prime Minister Trudeau summoned me, and I was rather reluctant.

Senator Phillips: I wonder why you had to have that letter if Prime Minister Trudeau appointed you.

If the Leader of the Liberal Party is dissatisfied with the performance of Senator MacEachen, and is opposed to his action, it would seem logical that Mr. Turner should replace Senator MacEachen. Since we see him there, we see him meeting with Mr. Turner every day—

Senator MacEachen: One threat a day is enough.

Senator Phillips:—one can only assume that Mr. Turner supports Senator MacEachen's actions.

Senator MacEachen: I lost my job anyway, according to Senator Murray. So, another blow is all right.

Senator Phillips: That would be progress.

John Turner made an agreement in the House of Commons on behalf of his party. The question arises: Did he instruct the Honourable Senator MacEachen, as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, to break that agreement? Obviously he must have, or he would have replaced Senator MacEachen.

In all fairness to honourable senators opposite, I want to make it clear that not everyone on the other side who has spoken to me about Bill C-11 supports the action taken by Senator MacEachen. He obviously has had some dissension in his caucus over this, but he persists, in his petulant manner, to oppose Bill C-11. He must be getting instructions from somewhere or he would have listened to the objections in his caucus, and those instructions, I am sure, originate in the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the other place.

There has already been some discussion about replacing Senator MacEachen. I will skip the rest of my speech in that regard in deference to my friend and hope that he will be man enough to depart on his own.

Senator MacEachen: I am disturbed enough already.

Senator Phillips: At the meeting of the Senate Committee on National Finance we heard from the Minister of Finance concerning the urgency of passing this bill. The deliberate delay—and it is deliberate and petulant—has already cost the taxpayers of Canada \$3 million.

Senator Guay: It is going up.

Senator Phillips: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate is thinking back to a former television program entitled *The Six Million Dollar Man*. He wants to become the "six million dollar man"; he is prepared to delay this bill until it has cost the taxpayers of Canada \$6 million so that he can walk out of here and call himself "the six million dollar senator." I hope that he will reconsider and settle for being "the three million dollar senator." Not even Senator Guay or

[Senator Phillips.]

Senator Kenny cost that much, and surely they would be satisfied with being three million dollar senators.

Senator Guay: I do not say anything unless I know what I am talking about.

Senator Phillips: That is good. I am always glad to see someone reform.

Senator Guay: Don't start anything.

Senator Phillips: The Minister of Finance has already explained that he has cut back on two bond issues. He is most anxious to proceed with another one on Monday.

I was disappointed with the reaction of the committee to that plea. I found a smirk of glee on many faces there that I did not appreciate. That is something new in the Senate.

Senator MacEachen: Happiness is new, is it?

Senator Phillips: Ministers who have appeared before Senate committees in the past have always received consideration for their requests. I have been here many years now, honourable senators, and that principle has always been followed, particularly for a Minister of Finance who has appeared before a Senate committee and explained his reasons. In 22 years I have never seen a minister refused.

Senator Sinclair: Would you permit a question?

Senator Phillips: Certainly.

Senator Sinclair: When did a similar situation exist where a parliamentary principle and good business practice had been ignored? That is why the situation is different.

Senator Phillips: I am not impressed by the arguments of sound parliamentary principle and of financial responsibility from the Honourable Senator Sinclair. Anyone who supported a party that doubled the national debt in seven years is on very shaky ground when he starts talking about parliamentary principles. In case you have forgotten, Senator Sinclair, you supported that government.

Senator Guay: Would you permit another question?

Senator Phillips: I should like to finish my remarks and then talk to you.

Senator Guay: In your 22 years' experience in the Senate, have you ever seen a Minister of Finance walk out of a Senate committee meeting before it had finished its inquisition?

Senator Phillips: I have seen many occasions when ministers appeared before a committee and said that they had a limited amount of time.

Senator Guay: The House of Commons was not sitting on Monday.

Senator Sinclair: He did not say that he had to leave, he simply left.

Senator Phillips: When he began his remarks he said that he had a limited amount of time. As to your idea of the house not sitting, surely you, as a former cabinet minister, realize that ministers have other duties to perform as well as duty in