

the Bill C-31, intituled: "An Act to amend the Indian Act", in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate, or any matter relating thereto;

That the Committee have power to adjourn from place to place within Canada; and

That the Committee be empowered to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be required for the purpose of the said examination.

He said: Honourable senators, Senator Neiman, the chairman of the committee, would like to make a comment on this particular motion.

Hon. Joan Neiman: Honourable senators, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to this motion. We are anxious to get under way with the study of Bill C-31 as soon as possible. In fact, I have made provision for a meeting room for tomorrow morning to hear our first witness from the department who will explain the technical background and intricacies of this bill, which of course is an amendment to the Indian Act. You will be informed later in the day of the location of the meeting which will take place at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow and Mr. Lahey from the department will appear.

The meeting will be held *in camera* in order to give everyone as much opportunity as possible to discuss this matter thoroughly and to be briefed in an informal manner. There are several senators on this side of the house who have expressed to me the desire to become a member of that committee. As you know, we cannot accommodate everyone. However, I would urge those in this chamber who are interested in the provisions of Bill C-31 to attend as many sessions as possible in order to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, as you will note, our own order paper is quite bare of legislation. Nevertheless, the order paper of the House of Commons is not, and some of the 15 or 20 bills on it are quite substantial. They are going through due process in the House of Commons; the debates are ongoing, and its committees are examining those bills in detail. In anticipation of many of them arriving here at the same time, we have decided, in consultation with our honourable colleagues opposite, to ask certain committees to pre-study the subject matter of four of those bills.

The pre-study of the subject matter of those four bills will entail quite an extra load on the committees branch. When the Senate rises this afternoon, tomorrow afternoon, or whenever, I will suggest that we try to take advantage of our time to schedule committee meetings. I know that there are several meetings scheduled for this afternoon and tomorrow morning.

I do not know whether the scheduling of Senator Neiman's committee to sit tomorrow has been cleared with the chairman

in charge of committees or not, so perhaps our whip, who has expressed some concern, will make a comment on that.

At this point I can only say that, since the order paper looks something less than crowded, we should take advantage of our time to conduct those pre-studies.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, if I may point out, there are limited facilities for holding committee meetings and a limited number of personnel to staff them. It was my understanding that all committee meetings were to be cleared through the chairman of committees, or the whips. The meeting proposed for tomorrow morning has not been cleared by me; the suggestion was not even made to me. I would ask the committee chairman to have the courtesy to do that so that we can avoid any difficulties.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): As I understood the arrangement, the "traffic policeman's" job for these committee meetings was to be shared by Senators Phillips and Petten. I note that Senator Petten was not here, so that may be the reason he did not raise it with Senator Phillips. I confirm what Senator Phillips has said—that is, we have asked Senators Phillips and Petten to control the traffic as far as meetings are concerned. That may be the reason for the slip up.

Hon. Joan Neiman: Honourable senators, I apologize to Senator Phillips. I had understood that the meeting had been cleared. We will certainly do that in the future.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PARLIAMENT HILL

CANADIAN FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I ask the leader whether the Canadian flag, which is at half-staff over the Peace Tower, is in that position to mourn the late Konstantin Chernenko, the former President of the U.S.S.R., or to mourn the late Right Honourable "Tom" Adams, the late Prime Minister of Barbados, or the Canadian who gave his life defending a foreign mission, the Turkish embassy, to discharge Canada's responsibility to give protection to those missions.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I hope the flag is flying at half-staff for all three of those reasons.

THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN ADAMS PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether the Prime Minister of Canada is going to lead the Canadian