

Order of Reference from the House of Commons

Tuesday, December 13, 1983

Ordered,—That the House of Commons do unite with the Senate in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons to consider and report upon ways by which the Senate of Canada could be reformed in order to strengthen its role in representing people from all regions of Canada and to enhance the authority of Parliament to speak and act on behalf of Canadians in all parts of the country.

That the Committee include in its final report recommendations concerning the method of selection, powers, length of term for Senators, distribution of seats and other matters that the Committee considers relevant to the reform of the Senate;

That the Members of the House of Commons to act on behalf of the House as members of the said Committee be Mr. Comtois, Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Crosby (Halifax West), Mr. Gourde (Lévis), Mr. Harquail, Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Portelance, Mr. Roy and Mr. Thacker;

That the Committee have power to appoint, from among its members, such sub-committees as it may deem advisable or necessary;

That the Committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House;

That the Committee have power to report from time to time, to send for persons, papers and records, and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the Committee;

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

That a quorum of the Committee be 10 members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented and that the Committee be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, whenever 5 members are present, so long as both Houses are represented;

That the Committee be empowered to retain the services of professional, clerical and stenographic staff as deemed advisable by the Joint Chairmen and that for these purposes the Committee be deemed never to have ceased to exist;

That the Committee present its final report no later than January 31, 1984;

That the evidence adduced by the Committee in the first session of the present Parliament be referred to the Committee; and

That a Message be sent to the Senate to inform that House accordingly.

ATTEST

C. B. KOESTER
The Clerk of the House of Commons