

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: No. There is nothing to suggest that.

The Hon. the Speaker: Then I shall wait until the amendment is drafted, and I shall put the amendment and the motion.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: Honourable senators, I rise on a point of order. As I read Rule 3, it provides that the rule, or part thereof, proposed to be suspended shall be distinctly stated. My understanding of that is that it is not necessary to put it in the motion. The rule is there for a purpose, namely, to call the attention of the Senate to the fact that one of its rules is being set aside. This will have, I believe, many auxiliary advantages. We will know, for example, next week where the members of the Special Committee on Poverty are, and this will be the only way by which the chamber will know where they are because under this rule they are required to inform the Senate. It is that simple.

The Hon. the Speaker: Again, honourable senators, I ask your indulgence. I wish to add just one word which I hope will clarify the situation.

It is my opinion that if in the fourth paragraph of the motion by the honourable Senator Croll the words "by leave" are added, that will make unnecessary the amendment moved by the honourable Senator Roebuck.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I have a comment to make. It may be that a general statement such as "with consent" may extract us from the difficulties in which we are at the moment, but it does not answer the situation. The consent might apply to all sorts of things. We are at the present moment unanimous only in that we do not want committees meeting while the Senate is in session, except in special circumstances and after due consideration. The amendment I have moved is specific.

Hon. Mr. Lamontagne: We are not unanimous.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: We are nearly unanimous. The amendment I have moved is specific. We are giving the right to this committee to sit during sittings of the Senate, and in these circumstances and nothing else. I think we should specify what we are doing, and my amendment does that.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it is moved by the honourable Senator

Croll, seconded by the honourable Senator Roebuck:

That a Special Committee of the Senate be appointed . . .

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

The Hon. the Speaker: In amendment it is moved by the honourable Senator Roebuck, seconded by the honourable Senator Burchill, that there be inserted after the word "Senate" in the fourth paragraph of the motion the following words "and that Rule 76, subsection (4), be suspended accordingly."

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the amendment to the motion?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question. I am not perfectly clear on this matter. Does this mean that on every specific occasion that a special committee sits when the Senate is sitting, it has to obtain the permission of the house to do so?

Some Hon. Senators: No.

The Hon. the Speaker: If I understand the matter correctly, this amendment calls for the suspension of Rule 76(4). Its adoption will mean that this committee will have the right to sit while the house is sitting, and when it feels it necessary to so sit.

I am now asking, honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the amendment to the main motion?

Hon. Maurice Bourget: Honourable senators, I rise on a point of order. There is something wrong, or I did not hear exactly what was said. If I understood His Honour the Speaker correctly, he said that Senator Roebuck seconded the main motion, and then moved an amendment to that same motion. This, to my mind, is not in accordance with the Rules. I think some other honourable senator should move the amendment, not the seconder of the main motion.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Honourable senators, may I be permitted to move the amendment proposed by Senator Roebuck?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I withdraw in favour of Senator McDonald.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the amendment moved by the honourable Senator