

● (1530)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Senator Neiman has already explained that.

Senator Olson: I have to acknowledge that at one point I was not listening to the debate. However, I do not think that I can add anything more to what Senator Neiman has said, and I hope that honourable senators will approve the motion today.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Arthur Tremblay: I do not intend to engage in a debate, because actually it already has taken place on the substance of the issue. Referring to Senator Neiman's remarks, I would simply say I am glad that the suggestion I made the other day, that the process or evolution of constitutional amendments, now that we are in the post-patriation phase, is a matter to be studied thoroughly, in order to establish for the future procedures that are reliable and all-encompassing. In any case, we will be perfectly conscious of that and will be sufficiently aware of the nature of what is implied to avoid any surprise. Senator Neiman suggested that while the native peoples did expect a constitutional conference

to be held in March, the fact that it will not be such a conference may not be a serious problem. Having met subsequently a few natives who are involved in the work done by the association representatives, this has been a disappointment to them. They say so in private, because they thought everything would be over by December. This goes to show the importance of looking at each such operation, because every time we will be breaking new ground as far as procedure is concerned. The Senate indeed is there to undertake such studies. Of course, the procedure will not necessarily be the same each and every time. I am glad that Senator Neiman has seriously considered this suggestion that the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs take the initiative in holding a few meetings as needs be. We will be hearing Department of Justice officials, and witnesses from outside, and will look at the various possible ways for introducing future constitutional amendments. To conclude, it has already been indicated that we are going to agree to the resolution.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, November 14, 1983, at 8 pm.