

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): I think the honourable senator is very exercised, and I really do not know what got him so excited this morning. I hope that his trip to the hospital was not in any way—

Senator Olson: If you understand plain English, you might have heard what I just said! I want some Question Periods.

Senator Doody: I heard the honourable senator say that he was upset because he did not get to Question Period this morning.

Senator Olson: Yes, and now there will be no Question Period tomorrow.

Senator Doody: I am sorry about that. I regret very much that happening, but the major thrust of his complaint appears to be one of not having communication with his caucus. I had no problem at all in discussing this matter in our caucus, and the people on this side agreed that this was the procedure we would adopt. My understanding was that the people on the other side did exactly the same thing.

If Senator Olson did not communicate with his people or did not have them communicate with him, then I am sorry about that, but there is nothing I can do about it. If there are enough senators here who want to come back tomorrow, or this evening, or this afternoon, or any time that is convenient for them, then certainly we are prepared to do exactly that. There is no desire to cut off Question Period and there is no desire to deprive the honourable gentleman of all the information he needs about these matters of tremendous import that he has raised, and we will see that he gets the information as soon as the Senate is prepared to sit and discuss them.

Senator Olson: I am glad it is in writing.

Senator Doody: In the meantime, I feel that there was no question of privilege.

Senator Flynn: It is as if he was born yesterday!

• (1050)

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NOTICE OF MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

Hon. Henry D. Hicks: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(d), I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Molgat, deputy chairman of the previous Special Committee on National Defence—Senator Marshall is not here and that is why Senator Molgat is seconding this motion:

That a special committee of the Senate be appointed to hear evidence on and to consider the following matter relating to national defence, namely, Canada's land forces including mobile command, and such other matters as may from time to time be referred to it by the Senate:

That, notwithstanding Rule 66, the Honourable Senators Balfour, Bonnell, Buckwold, Doyle, Gigantès, Hicks, Lewis, MacEachen (or Frith), Marshall, McElman,

[Senator Flynn.]

Molgat, Molson, Murray (or Doody) and Roblin, act as members of the Special Committee and that four members constitute a quorum;

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

That the papers and evidence received and taken on the subject during the Thirty-third Parliament be referred to the Committee; and

That the Committee report to the Senate no later than 31st March, 1989.

May I be permitted a brief word in explanation, honourable senators?

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Before the honourable senator does that, may I rise on a point of order? I believe the motion as moved by the honourable senator is out of order. My understanding of the rules is that the Committee of Selection, not the individual moving such a motion, selects the members of the committee.

Senator Hicks: In reply to that I would say that this is not a select committee: this is a special committee and one which is being continued from the previous Parliament.

I should say, if I may be permitted to go a little further, that the committee was within a few weeks of completing its work when Parliament was dissolved. Had we had another three or four weeks the work of the committee would have been completed and the report would have been ready by the middle of December, which was the original undertaking.

As it is now, of course, certain delays have been introduced. It is important, I think, that this work be finished as quickly as possible. I should say that there is enough money left in the budget in this fiscal year—

Senator Phillips: There is no budget.

Senator Hicks: —to pay for the work of the committee. I agree that this committee has to be reconstituted, but the moneys have been budgeted for and are there. I think it is of vital importance that the work of this committee be completed as soon as possible.

I asked for leave to make this motion so as to reconstitute the committee and to complete the work of the committee as quickly as possible.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): No.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): No, honourable senators.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Senator Hicks was granted leave to give notice of this motion, not to proceed with it.

Senator Frith: Yes. It will be dealt with at the next sitting of the Senate.