

Hon. Mr. McDonald: The committee now has power to meet during adjournments of less than one week.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: It is to correct a mistake.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

FILM "UN PAYS SANS BON SENS"—QUESTION

Hon. Eugene A. Forsey: Honourable senators, I have a few questions for the Government Leader. The first is related to a report in the September 10 issue of the *Globe and Mail* to the effect that during a program produced at the University of Montreal a definitely separatist film was shown to new students, titled "Un pays sans bon sens"—a film about Canada. Furthermore, still according to the same report, the film is said to be a National Film Board production.

I would ask the government, following that report, how it is that the National Film Board can issue such films. I have given notice to the Government Leader of this question.

Hon. Mr. Martin: The honourable senator was kind enough to give me notice of the two questions at six o'clock but I have not yet had the opportunity to obtain replies.

I hope to be able to reply to those two questions next week, since inquiries will have to be made.

NATIONAL CAPITAL

SCULPTURE IN CONFEDERATION PARK—QUESTION

Hon. Mr. Forsey: As for the other question, honourable senators, I wonder who could give us this information.

In the small park opposite the Lord Elgin Hotel, there is a so-called sculpture which looks like bowels. I would like to know, what federal agency put this monstrosity in this nice little park. What agency is responsible for this mistake which in my view is a gross one? What is this so-called sculpture which is an insult to the Canadian people?

Hon. Mr. Martin: Well, I can assure Senator Forsey that I am just as curious as he is and I am eagerly awaiting the answer which I hope will be received within a few days.

[English]

THE SENATE

USE OF CHAMBER BY NATO

Hon. Harland de M. Molson: Honourable senators, I would ask the Leader of the Government if he could enlighten some of us, who have heard quite a few rumours that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will

be meeting in Ottawa in this chamber, and that we may not sit, and so on.

It seems to me that, if some plans have been made to lend our facilities to others, the first people to be informed should be the members of the chamber. So far as I know, no one has been informed. I would ask if any plans or commitments have been made and, if so, when we, the members of the Senate, will be informed?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Honourable senators, the point made by Senator Molson has been under active consideration for some time and I can assure him that any concrete information will be made available to the house just as rapidly as there is a final conclusion.

It is quite true that NATO will be meeting in Ottawa, for the first time in its history, and they have requested the use of this chamber for the plenary sessions to be held on three days, namely, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 27, 28 and 29, but not at night.

Personally, I would hope that it would not be necessary for the Senate to be in session while NATO is meeting here. Part of my reason for so hoping is that, as the host nation, we must supply certain facilities and staff to NATO and this will take, in my opinion, the full time of part of our staff.

However, the first responsibility of this chamber is to deal with the business of the nation. The one bill now proceeding through the House of Commons is C-262, and it must be dealt with by this chamber as quickly as possible after it is referred here from the other place. I have no idea when that bill will arrive. It is my hope that it will come here in time for us to dispose of it before the commencement of the NATO meeting, but we may not receive it until after.

As soon as a decision can be made, all honourable senators will be notified. I am sorry that it is not possible to give that information tonight.

I can only repeat my hope that we do not sit during the period when NATO is meeting in Ottawa in this building, and for part of the time in this chamber.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, may I say to the deputy Leader that my understanding was that NATO would use this chamber on Tuesday in the morning and afternoon, and that we could use it on Tuesday night; that NATO would use it on Wednesday morning and we could use it on Wednesday afternoon, and that those meetings would not interfere with the business of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Honourable senators, the observations of the Leader of the Opposition are absolutely correct. If necessary, the Senate can sit while NATO is here. But the problem I referred to is that of staff and it would be more convenient if we did not have to meet. It is my hope that we shall not have to meet, but if we have to meet in order to deal with Bill C-262, then we will.