

I urge all honourable senators to move this bill forward as quickly as possible, so that the measure can be implemented in time to benefit those it is intended to help.

I thank Senator Marsden and her committee for preparing themselves to receive the bill so quickly, and I commend it to the Senate for second reading.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: On a point of order, Senator Doody, normally when you introduce a piece of legislation on second reading someone on this side adjourns the debate. We then have an opportunity in the interval to study your remarks in the printed *Hansard*. In order to expedite matters, would you be agreeable to providing us with copies of the notes that you have just read? They contain a number of figures, and we should like to be able to quote them accurately. Is there any objection to that?

Senator Doody: I have no problem with that, Senator Corbin. I should be pleased to do so, if the page would now take my notes and have them copied.

Hon. Lorna Marsden: Honourable senators, we welcome Bill C-86. In fact, we wish we had seen it sooner. This bill does everything that Senator Doody has described. The problems faced by families with children all the time, but certainly in this economic climate, are ones that we should like to alleviate as quickly as possible by the rapid passage of this bill through the Senate—I hope today.

The minister has told the public that the cheques that those families will receive can be in the mail by the end of the week. The families who were expecting this money were told that the cheques would be mailed on November 1. We are already a week late. The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology is prepared to meet at 4 o'clock this afternoon. We have a witness coming from the Department of Finance to speak to some of the intricacies of this bill. It is simple, but, at the same time, there are questions that arise concerning it. Certainly from this side of the house we give full and as rapid support to this bill as we can.

Before resuming my seat, I wonder if, with leave of the Senate, I could move that the committee be authorized to meet, even though the Senate may still be sitting.

Senator Doody: Wait until the bill is referred.

Senator Marsden: I make the request to move that motion because we may not reach "Notices of Motions" before 4 o'clock.

Senator Doody: If no other honourable senator wishes to speak on the bill, I move second reading.

Senator Corbin: I should like to say something.

Senator Doody: I am sorry. Does Senator Corbin wish to wait until the notes are here?

Senator Corbin: I am quite agreeable to that. I just want to put on the record that I wished to speak on this, but changes in today's Order of Business were made at the last minute and I am not now in a position to speak. I do not have the honourable Senator's notes. He may do whatever he wishes.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Marsden, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

Hon. Lorna Marsden, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1)(a), moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology have power to sit while the Senate is sitting today, and that Rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN HOSTAGES IN IRAQ—PROPOSAL TO SEND PARLIAMENTARY NEGOTIATORS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, I heard that three members of the other place are going to Iraq to try to bring home some of our Canadian citizens who are held hostage in that country. I should like the Leader of the Government in the Senate to tell me, first, why there has been a change in the stance of the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Clark?

Secondly, why did he not approve of the change in the first place? Finally, what made the difference? Is the situation in Iraq much improved or much worse? Why did the government change its position?

I have another question on that subject. Will a member of the Government of Canada—not a member of the Conservative Party—be part of the delegation to bring some higher prestige and a higher government profile to the group going to Iraq to intercede on behalf of Canadians held hostage there?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, unless something has happened in the past few minutes, I think I can assure the honourable senator that there has been no change in position on the part of the government with regard to this matter.

Senator Bonnell: It is not going to agree to send someone over?