

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Hon. Anne C. Cools: Honourable senators, on behalf of Senator Riel, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament:

Tuesday, March 22, 1994

The Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament has the honour to present its

FIRST REPORT

Your committee recommends that it be authorized to assist the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons in directing and controlling the Library of Parliament; and that it be authorized to make recommendations to the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons regarding the government of the Library and the proper expenditure of moneys voted by Parliament for the purchase of books, maps or other articles to be deposited therein.

Your committee recommends that its quorum be fixed at four (4) members, provided that both Houses are represented whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, and that the Joint Chairmen be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof so long as three (3) members are present, provided that both houses are represented; and, that the committee have power to engage the services of such expert staff, and such stenographic and clerical staff as may be required.

Your committee further recommends to the Senate that it be empowered to sit during sittings of the Senate.

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (*Issue No. 1*, First Session, Thirty-fifth Parliament) is tabled in the House of Commons.

Respectfully submitted,

HON. SENATOR MAURICE RIEL, P.C.
TED MCWHINNEY, M.P.
Joint Chairmen

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Cools, for Senator Riel, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 59(1)(h), I move:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 23, 1994, at one thirty o'clock in the afternoon.

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, may I ask a question of the Honourable Senator Molgat? May we assume that the government business coming to us before the end of week, when we are still expected to adjourn, is so light that we can afford to have a "short" Wednesday?

Senator Berntson: Where is Harvie Andre when you need him?

Senator Molgat: I appreciate the comment of my honourable friend. The situation is that the legislation is not moving through the House of Commons as quickly as anticipated. That is why I commented last night that the proposed schedule that I had mentioned to the Senate last week might not be followed. At the moment, I do not know exactly when the anticipated legislation will come to us.

I discussed the adjournment that I am proposing now with my honourable friends opposite. If committees had not been meeting, I would have proposed carrying on with the normal schedule. However, the Banking Committee is meeting tomorrow. The Governor of the Bank of Canada is to appear. It seemed to me, after discussion, that it would be better to proceed with that tomorrow rather than with a longer sitting of the Senate.

As soon as I have a better idea of what the House of Commons may send to us, I will advise my honourable friends.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: I hope we are not getting into a situation where the tail is wagging the dog — in other words, that the Deputy Leader of the Government is saying that, because committees have already scheduled meetings for Wednesday afternoon, we must adjust our schedule to theirs. I think it would be more appropriate for committees to ensure that the Senate need not sit for a full day on Wednesday before scheduling their meetings.

Senator Molgat: I understand my honourable friend perfectly, having made the same speech on numerous occasions from the side of the house on which he now sits. Obviously, the Senate must determine its own schedule, which is what we shall do.

However, the facts at the moment are such that I cannot guarantee what legislation we will have tomorrow. I believe it is an Order of the House that two financial bills will pass this evening. They could be given first reading tomorrow. With agreement, we could then move them forward and deal with them quickly. We will have to wait to see.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, regarding the matter of scheduling the business of the Senate, I would like the deputy leader not to take for granted the unanimous consent