

I am thinking of CIDA, for example — and this is not meant to be criticism — whose foreign aid policy is inconsistent in certain areas. Even in the government's policy statement or in the report, it would seem that everyone is in agreement, except that, in Africa, we note that it did not bring about the expected results.

Therefore, there comes a time when we must wonder because some people want to keep the machine running at all times, even though in some instances the machine is not effective. I think that this is an important point.

I am not advocating that we have the same amount of control as the elected representatives of the people, because I realize that they should decide on such issues. One area where senators have a lot to give relates to the positions taken, something I believe is important not only for this issue but also for others. I am only thinking about this one area in particular because we are discussing it.

**Senator Prud'homme:** I would like to continue this discussion with Senator Bolduc because I will certainly make a proposal to the Senate in the coming months. I have been reading everything that has been said on the issue, and it is quite extraordinary what one can find with the help of our good researchers in the library and elsewhere.

I agree with you that it is not within our mandate to veto expenditures which have been accepted by the House of Commons. The proposal which I am planning to make would not give us the power to reject, but the power to comment.

I do not mean to say that the Senate would have the right to veto expenditures proposed by ministers, but after having studied a project like the one at CIDA about which you were speaking, after having gone over it with a fine-toothed comb, slowly, patiently, as only the Senate can, and having found absurd things which have been passed by Parliament, we could make our comments known to all of Parliament.

As you can see, I am searching for a way of doing this. Instead of going about it privately, I am trying to do it publicly in order to solicit the advice of various colleagues. I am of the opinion that Senator Bolduc and I differ in opinion on but a few issues.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I have concluded that these are questions put to Senator Bolduc and not part of a speech. Of course, if this had been a speech, it would have contravened the *Rules of the Senate*. Thank you, honourable senators.

• (1510)

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

[English]

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I move that all remaining motions and inquiries stand.

**Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, the calendar should remain the same; that is, the clock should not move on those items.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Senator Berntson:** Honourable senators, before we move into Committee of the Whole, I understand that it is virtually impossible to keep your finger on the pulse of the dynamics of the other place. I also understand that there have been ongoing discussions as to how long Bill C-77 will take to arrive here.

Can the Deputy Leader of the Government paint the various scenarios that we may be facing over the weekend? Would he expect that we might be dealing with this bill in this chamber, tonight, Saturday, Sunday, or not until Monday? The reasons for asking this question are obvious. We do not want to come back from right across the country to deal with it on the weekend if it is advisable that we should stay here to deal with it tomorrow or Saturday.

**Senator Graham:** I thank the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his question. My response to painting a scenario may look like a Picasso at its worse or at its best. Yesterday afternoon, I indicated that the chances of getting unanimous consent to proceed were remote. They were worse than that; they were zero. I thank honourable senators for their patience and their understanding.

However, being an eternal optimist, I am sure that efforts to gain unanimous consent will be ongoing at appropriate times today and tomorrow. In the event that unanimous consent is obtained, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that we could receive the legislation later today, however remote that possibility may be.

That having been said — here again I will be skating on thin ice, and I may have to resort to my ski-jumping story once more — it is my understanding that there is a house order in the other place, if all other efforts fail with respect to unanimous consent, to have report stage at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday with time allocation in the absence of unanimous consent.

That house order also includes, if required, a sitting in the other place on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. with time allocation to deal with third reading. In due course, the bill could be received in this place later Sunday. We will keep honourable senators informed as events unfold.