

I hope that when senators and members in the House of Commons are discussing this opportunity in the days ahead, they will look at each and every step in a positive, friendly, constructive way, thinking more of the opportunities, desires and needs of the citizens of the Turks and Caicos Islands than of our own position, because we are so much larger and stronger. If we give this careful attention and meet these people with goodwill on both sides, perhaps we can work out a new system that will be a model to other countries who want to bring nations together and reverse some trends that we have seen, where nations become more and more divided.

I am honoured to have been able to deal with representatives of people from the Turks and Caicos Islands from time to time over a long period of years and to have been associated in discussing this question with members of Parliament and senators in other political parties. I hope that together we can work towards an arrangement that will be helpful to Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islanders and will provide all of us with an exciting vision of the opportunity that we have to go forward in an economic and political association that will have tremendous possibilities for the future.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

On motion of Senator Macquarrie, debate adjourned.

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. Paul C. Lafond**, pursuant to notice of Tuesday, March 10, 1987, moved:

That a Special Committee of the Senate be appointed to hear evidence on and to consider matters relating to national defence;

That 12 Senators, to be designated at a later date, four of whom shall constitute a quorum, act as members of the Special Committee;

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; and

That the Committee report to the Senate no later than 15 December, 1987.

He said: Honourable senators, if I may say just a few words, the proposed committee will be called upon to consider matters relating to national defence and to place the problems of national defence before the people of Canada.

As honourable senators are aware, I have been an advocate for a number of years of there being a standing committee of the Senate on national defence.

**Senator Bell:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Lafond:** However, the Senate has not judged it appropriate to create such a committee up to this time and until further notice.

In the interim, I have been urged, not to say pressed—and I must say that I have not resisted that pressure—to invite the Senate to reconstitute this special committee so that it will be in existence when the white paper comes down—I am still optimistic—and also to complete our studies on Canada's Armed Forces, by looking into Mobile Command and our land forces generally.

These pressures have come from a majority of the senators who were members of the previous committee, as well as from military associations, for instance, the National Chairman of the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes of Canada, who writes:

This letter is a word of encouragement, if that is necessary, to continue the fine efforts of the past. I hope that your Committee will again become very active, particularly with the White Paper about to appear.

The Royal Canadian Artillery Association adopted the resolution in February, 1986. It states the following:

Recognizing the outstanding contributions to the analysis of the defence and security issues made by the excellent reports of the Senate Special Committee on Defence.

Wishing to see the Senate Special Committee continue its highly useful and closely reasoned analysis of Defence issues.

Concerned that insufficient attention has been given to the issues of force structure, mobilization, and sustainment of the army.

Recommends to the Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Defence that the Special Committee continue its investigation of Defence issues with a study of the Force Structure of the Army.

As well, I have had many verbal presentations from members of the Armed Forces who feel that, after the in depth and extensive studies we have made of Maritime Command and of Air Command, they deserve and need the same treatment from the Senate.

Of course, getting into a study of our land forces involves looking into a variety of commands such as Mobile Command itself; Canadian Forces Europe; Training Command; Communications Command and Northern Command. This may become extensive in terms of time.

If and when the committee is formed, the committee itself will decide how it will proceed and how much time it can afford to spend on these matters. For the time being, the motion suggests that the Special Committee of the Senate report by December 15, but it appears to me quite probable that by December 15 an extension will be requested for an ultimate report.