

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): The day before it was introduced into the house.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I asked on his side of the house whom he wanted on the committee. I did not receive those names before the Easter recess, which took place early in April, and we did not come back here until May 3. On May 5, two days later, I had the names from the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and they appeared in the notice on the order paper. That is the situation. I do not like to be accused of things like that, and I am not going to say anything more about it.

Hon. Mr. Vien: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: If the house had wanted to get busy on this thing immediately, why did it debate the motion for two weeks? I gave a notice of motion on May 5, and the debate was not completed until the 18th of the month. I take no responsibility whatsoever for delaying this matter. I did my best to get it under way, and I am doing the same thing right now. I had my deputy give notice of motion to set up the committee on the very day Parliament opened. I am anxious, and I know the members of this house are anxious, to make this committee a success, and I feel that something will be accomplished. It is a big job, and it could not be undertaken lightly and in a hurry. We were absent from the house during the Easter recess for about three and a half weeks and in that period we could not have done anything. The matter was proceeded with immediately on our return, and I think the committee did a good job within the time it had at its disposal.

I will take into consideration the suggestion of the honourable senator from Halifax-Dartmouth (Hon. Mr. Isnor) that the honourable senator from Cape Breton (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) be added to the committee.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): The house will give unanimous consent to that.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: If the house is willing to give unanimous consent it is quite all right, as far as I am concerned.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Is that agreed to, that the Honourable Senator J. M. Macdonald from Cape Breton be added to those who are members of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Honourable senators, I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Isnor:

That the motion be amended by adding the name of the Honourable Senator J. M.

Macdonald (Cape Breton) to the list of senators nominated to serve on the special committee.

Amendment agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Golding: Honourable senators, I would like to ask the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) a question. On October 24, I think, the Prime Minister called a meeting of business and labour and other groups, I suppose, to discuss this unemployment problem. Was the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate asked, or was this committee asked, for any information that it had been able to obtain up to that date in connection with the problem we are trying to investigate?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I was not consulted in the matter at all, and the committee, as you know, died a natural death at prorogation.

Hon. Mr. Golding: I quite understand that. I want to know if the committee had been asked in any way at that time, October 24, if it had any information available which might be useful in the consideration of the problem that we are going to investigate.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): As amended.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: As amended.

The Hon. the Speaker: As amended, yes.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: As amended, and also with the name of the honourable Leader of the Opposition as seconder of the motion.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): I have no objection, and I did not raise the question.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I did not make it clear, but I entirely overlooked what had happened before. I know we had a number of discussions about it and we agreed that we would both speak to the resolution jointly, and I apologize for not doing this before.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Branford): It is not necessary for the honourable leader to apologize. I assume it was a mistake on his part. I cannot, however, agree with all he said about the delay.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

COLUMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING REPORT

Hon. Thomas Reid: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called may I direct the attention of the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) to the fact that last year I made a request for a copy of the engineering report on the proposed