

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Some Hon. Senators: No. On division.

Senator Flynn: It is a bad precedent, but, out of courtesy and to obtain forgiveness from Senator Bonnell—

Senator Frith: We have done it before!

Senator Doody: To gain more indulgence!

Senator McElman: Since Senator Flynn has already requested a vote today, would he like another recorded vote on this one?

Senator Flynn: Pardon me? I did not get it.

Senator McElman: You did not get it? That is all right; you did not get a lot today!

Senator Flynn: Not from you, anyway.
Motion agreed to, on division.

PRIVATE BILL

REGIONAL VICAR FOR CANADA OF THE PRELATURE OF THE
HOLY CROSS AND OPUS DEI—SECOND READING—ORDER
STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Bélisle, seconded by the Honourable Senator Nurgitz, for the second reading of the Bill S-7, An Act to incorporate the Regional Vicar for Canada of the Prelature of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei.—(*Honourable Senator Corbin*).

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I will not impose any further on the time of honourable senators today. I ask that the item stand in my name.

Order stands.

THE CONSTITUTION

FIRST MINISTERS' ACCORD AND AGREED TEXTS—
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONTINUED

On the Order:

The Senate again in Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and texts subsequently agreed to.

The Senate was accordingly adjourned during pleasure and put into a Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and texts subsequently agreed to, the Honourable Senator Gildas L. Molgat in the Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, at the last meeting of the Committee of the Whole we distributed a proposed report which had emanated from the steering committee and was proposed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. There were a number of amendments proposed in that report, and at the moment amended copies are being distributed to you.

Is it your wish to proceed with the consideration of this report?

Senator Doody: Absolutely!

The Chairman: Is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Chairman: Are there any discussions on the report?

Senator Doody: Yes. I have a number of problems with the report, Mr. Chairman, and one of them is the cost involved. Assuming that this carries—and things put forward by honourable members opposite usually carry—there will be a cost involved in this. I assume that the rules set forth by the Internal Economy Committee will apply to this suggested task force, which is an unfortunate name, I think, for a group of parliamentarians who are going forward. We had some problem with logistics a little while ago; I think this one is even more a militaristic than a logistical question. We might have some people who will hear some opinions; why they should be called a task force escapes me. Nevertheless, that might well be carried.

What is more important is the cost of it. When will the budget be prepared? Who will consider it? When will it be considered? And if we approve all of this today, will the Senate have some input into the budget approval? This is a Committee of the Whole, and I presume that in respect of a budget it is no different than any other committee—although perhaps it is.

I have never seen a Committee of the Whole being involved in interrogation or in an investigation before. The Committees of the Whole that I was involved in back in the legislature to which I belonged prior to coming here dealt with legislation only in a clause-by-clause examination. All of the things that we are doing here now are breaking new ground in terms of the work of a Committee of the Whole. How the budget is handled, who approves it, and how it is approved is a real question and a serious one.

Another item that bothers me is the second last item in the report. It states:

That the Task Force be authorized to continue its inquiry even though the session may be prorogued;—

In ordinary parliamentary parlance, as I understand it, if a session is prorogued, then all committees cease to exist. I know that there is a grey area in here as to whether or not that applies to the Senate, because obviously the Senate, in some respects, continues to exist—at least, I gather at the end of every month, when the cheque arrives, that the Senate must continue to exist. My understanding was, having been appointed until age 75, that that will continue—barring some act of God or the NDP!

In any event, the fact remains that—

An Hon. Senator: The act of the devil!

Senator Doody: That is almost synonymous! I just came from St. John's East.