

• (1530)

They will have to give those to the Speaker, who will give them to the Chief Electoral Officer, who will give them to the respective commissions, which will have 30 days to act. That is the 90 days about which some members are talking. They forget that the 30-day time periods are split. Two are joined together, but this one is alone. If they do not move now, they will all be facing the reality that they were negligent or that someone did not keep them informed.

The House of Commons has adjourned for the summer. Senators cannot sign; the act specifically stipulates any 30 members of the House of Commons, not any 30 members of Parliament.

That is my positive approach. It is the duty of the whip to inform the national caucus and others who are interested. If anyone sees virtue in my proposal, they should find 10 members to sign, and give notice that they intend ultimately to appeal to the committee of members of the House of Commons who will study the matter and report back to the commissioner. Luckily, last time most of the representations made by members of the House of Commons were accepted. Some were rejected.

Mine is a humble proposal for the summer. I sat in the House of Commons for 30 years and I know what is going on there. I know that some members are unhappy. Those who are unhappy now may think they will be happy with a new map. Those who are totally happy with the present map — and there are many of those — may end up being totally unhappy with a new map. It is give and take for them.

I will attend the committee studying Bill C-69, albeit as a non-member. I have been involved in this sort of activity for 30 years, and I certainly do not wish to drop out at the end. Come what may, the universe will unfold as it should. In the meantime, someone must bring some sanity to members of the House of Commons and tell them the true realities.

I can tell you openly that they do not know about the ticking of the clock in the last 30 days. If I am proven wrong by esteemed colleagues in the Senate, I will stand corrected, but I do not think I am wrong. If I am wrong, I will not mind apologizing publicly. However, if I am right, something should be done. I have privately given my full agreement to Senator Graham to proceed as he intends today.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, before proceeding, I want to ensure that all honourable senators understand that Bill C-69 was included in the order of the house that we passed earlier.

CODE OF CONDUCT

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Stanbury, seconded by the Honourable Senator Rizzuto:

That the Senate do unite with the House of Commons in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons to develop a Code of Conduct to guide Senators and Members of the House of Commons in reconciling their official responsibilities with their personal interests, including their dealings with lobbyists;

That seven Members of the Senate and fourteen Members of the House of Commons be Members of the Committee;

That the Committee be directed to consult broadly and review the approaches taken with respect to these issues in Canada and in other jurisdictions with comparable systems of government;

That the Committee have the power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the Senate;

That the Committee have the power to report from time to time, to send for persons, papers and records, and to print such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Committee;

That the Committee have the power to retain the services of expert, professional, technical and clerical staff;

That the quorum of the Committee be eleven Members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented, and that the Joint Chairpersons be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, whenever six Members are present, so long as both Houses are represented;