

as leader of the House, draw attention to the proceedings, commonly known as the Beauharnois Inquiry, that have been conducted in another place. All honourable members have followed those proceedings in the newspapers, and some also by attendance at the sittings of the committee of inquiry. The findings of the committee have shocked not only public opinion at large, but the opinion of senators on both sides of this House. We cannot afford to allow Parliament to prorogue until we, as a Senate, take some official notice of the committee's report. It has been laid on the Table in another place, and, I believe, is being formally introduced to-day. I have been waiting for a copy of the report to be sent over to us, but in the meantime we have access to it and are at liberty to make use of its contents. I suggest that the honourable leader on the other side (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) and I should each name three senators to constitute a committee to consider the best method of dealing with the report, that the committee should meet at the close of this afternoon's sitting, and that it should make recommendations as to what action the Senate ought to take. I anticipate that the honourable leader and my honourable friends on the other side will give us their hearty co-operation, having at heart the honour or the good reputation of the members of the Senate and desiring to see it vindicated. I trust the honourable leader opposite will see fit to concur in my suggestion. I may say frankly that so far as I have any power to bring it about, some committee or some body will deal with the report on the Beauharnois Inquiry before Parliament prorogues. If my honourable friend accedes to my proposition, I am ready to name at once three honourable gentlemen to co-operate with those he will name, and I would ask that they get to work with all speed, to-day if possible, so that the House may be able to deal with their findings to-morrow at the latest, or even at a sitting to-night; for Parliament is going to prorogue on Saturday. When the Senate is to meet is but a matter of detail. When the committee is ready to report we can decide when to meet.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable members of the Senate, my honourable friend suggests the formation of a small, informal committee composed of members of both sides of the House to examine into the situation that will confront us if a message comes from the other House, as is suggested by the report to which the honourable gentleman has alluded. I realize how important it is that a statement as to the

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position of the Senate in this connection be made before the end of the session; but of course I have not failed to note that the session may end the day after to-morrow, and the possibility of early prorogation places certain limitations upon what we can accomplish. If my honourable friend were to tell me that Parliament would prorogue on the first of September, or at a time to be fixed by the Senate, the position would be different, but my honourable friend must realize how restricted we are when prorogation is expected to take place within forty-eight hours.

I am ready to proceed with an examination of the case, and will nominate my right honourable friend from Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) and one of the esteemed senior members of this Chamber, the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique). I will ask them to accompany me to discuss the question with my honourable friend opposite and his friends.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I beg to name the honourable Senators Tanner, Griesbach and Beaubien.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: As it is my intention to leave the city very shortly, I would ask that another honourable member be named in my place.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend from De Salaberry suggests that, as he will be leaving the city shortly, he will be hampered if I ask him to accompany me to the conference. I may say that I had received a call from Montreal regarding the funeral of the late ex-Minister of Justice, Mr. Doherty, which will be held to-morrow morning, and that I intended leaving Ottawa after the adjournment of the Senate to-day and returning at four o'clock to-morrow. I feel quite sure, judging from the developments that are taking place in the other House, that the message to which my honourable friend opposite has referred will not reach us before Friday. In that event we should have the latter part of to-morrow afternoon and the whole evening to deliberate upon the situation referred to. I would suggest that my honourable friend from De Salaberry return with me to-morrow afternoon to the Senate and attend during the last hours of the session.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: May I suggest that if the House were to adjourn till this evening the committee could go to work at once.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I intimated as much when I said I thought it might be possible to have the matter taken up to-day