

Senator Frith: I am always all right.

Senator Simard: All right. I am glad that you are.

Senator Frith: And you?

Senator Simard: I am quite all right.

Senator Frith: Are you speaking to the motion to adjourn?

Senator Simard: No, sir, because you obviously stole my opportunity to speak on it.

Senator Frith: The Speaker wants to put the motion.

Senator Simard: Usually, the sponsor of the bill is allowed to make the first speech.

Senator Frith: The Speaker wants the motion put first.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: I want you to move third reading of Bill C-18. That is all.

Senator Simard: First, if you tell me, Your Honour, that you have accepted the motion to adjourn, I will say that I am against that amendment, and I am prepared to vote against it.

Senator Frith: It is not an amendment.

Senator Simard: If you are telling me that you have not received that motion to adjourn, then I would certainly offer my comments on third reading.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: I have not received a motion to adjourn.

Senator Simard: Thank you. I will address the bill, then.

Senator Olson: You have to move third reading, if you want to speak.

[Translation]

Senator Simard: Could I move third reading now?

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by Senator Simard, seconded by Senator Di Nino, that the bill be now read for the third time. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

[English]

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Now you can move your motion.

Senator Frith: For the reasons earlier expressed, I move the adjournment of the debate so that I can have an opportunity to look at the proceedings in the committee.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, it was moved by the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator Molgat, that further debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the Senate. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Senator Simard: Your Honour, I have made a motion that needs to be put before you accept another motion, I believe. However, I am in your hands. I will do whatever you decide.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: I did put the motion, senator.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, of course Bill C-18 affects many other pieces of legislation. It is a huge document, and a complex one in the eyes of several people, but nevertheless a bill incorporating technical aspects or amendments that have received adequate consideration in the other place and even in your committee for me to recommend swift passage.

The committee, at least most of its members, were happy with the witnesses who testified. Granted, this bill was referred to us perhaps only a week ago.

[English]

Senator Frith: Are you speaking on the bill or on the motion to adjourn the debate?

Senator Simard: I am speaking on my own motion, because your motion has not been received, I am told.

Senator Frith: The Speaker said he received it and put it.

Senator Simard: No. I believe you put my motion, did you not?

Senator Frith: No, he did not.

Senator Simard: There were two motions, and my motion —

Senator Frith: The motion was put —

Senator Simard: —has to be dealt with first.

Senator Frith: That is not correct.

Senator Simard: Your Honour, would you tell us —

Senator Frith: Senator Simard is quite right. He put the motion for third reading. The Speaker turned to me, and I stood and said, "I move the adjournment of the debate for the reasons expressed," and he put the motion to adjourn the debate. Therefore, the motion before the House now is the motion to adjourn the debate. That is what happened, is it not, Your Honour?

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: First of all, Senator Frith got up and spoke before I had the opportunity of asking you, Senator Simard, to move third reading of the bill. After I asked you to move third reading, you did move third reading. Then Senator Frith got up and moved the adjournment.

Senator Frith: What is before us is the motion to adjourn the debate.

Senator Simard: I can address your motion to adjourn. I am certainly not prepared to accept that, because it is obviously a way for the opposition and Senator Frith to further delay and prevent the orderly business of this house.

Senator Frith: It just came up for third reading, for goodness sake. Is that delay?

Senator Simard: Yes. Obviously at this stage of the game, it is. We know what kind of game you people play over there. Perhaps experts in procedure might say differently. I am certainly opposed to adjourning the motion. I think Senator Frith should do as is done generally; that is, even if he wants to