

I do not think there is anything further I need to say at this time except that I feel that this bill should be referred to committee. The last time a bill of this kind came before this house it was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science, because that is the committee which deals with veterans affairs. I presume that that is the committee to which this bill should be referred, if and when it receives second reading.

Senator Deschatelets: Did I understand the sponsor to say that all these changes were approved by the Legion?

Senator Godfrey: It is my understanding that they have been approved at a Dominion Convention of the Legion. The first one was approved two years ago at Edmonton, and the other three were approved, I am informed, this summer at the Dominion Convention at Penticton.

On motion of Senator Marshall, debate adjourned.

● (1440)

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, before moving the adjournment motion I wish to make two comments. Most of the items on the order paper have been stood, but we should recognize for the record that these days our proceedings are to some extent dominated either directly or indirectly by the activity of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada. However, I understand that the Commons is now debating Bill C-6, the Banks and Banking Law Revision Act, 1980, and may vote on it today. If it is passed, we can expect the bill tomorrow, together with some other business from the other place.

If Bill C-6 is voted on today, we should receive the message from the other place at 2 o'clock tomorrow; if it is debated and voted on tomorrow, we should receive it some time tomorrow. In either eventuality we could have first reading tomorrow. Because of the exigencies of the time limit on Bill C-6, and in order to avoid having to extend the time period again, I suggest that we meet Monday evening to give us more room to deal with the bill next week.

Depending on what happens with reference to the Bank Act in the other place today and tomorrow, I wish to warn honourable senators that I may well move, when we adjourn tomorrow, that we sit Monday night.

Just to project what might then take place, depending on the Senate's giving leave or giving support, as the case may be, to the various stages, we could consider the bill next week and certainly give it second reading, and then third reading, because in both the debate stage and the committee stage we are helped by the fact that the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce has already studied the subject matter of the bill and it is expected that Senator Hayden will, as chairman of that committee, sponsor the bill. He will certainly be able to help the Senate considerably with reference to debate, both on the subject matter of the bill and on its particular provisions.

[Senator Godfrey]

I thought before we adjourned, honourable senators, I should warn you that we might well wish to sit Monday evening for the purposes I have outlined.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, in response to the deputy leader, may I say that I certainly understand the problem he has put before us because the deadline for this bill is the end of this month, which means that next week is the total time allotted to us to deal with it. Despite that, I am not convinced that it would be necessary to meet on Monday night. I feel it might suffice to meet early on Tuesday. My reason for saying that is that we have had a pre-study of this bill that has taken place for a considerable length of time in the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable Senator Hayden.

This bill, in its present or previous forms, has really been studied to death in that committee. It has been there for two or three years at least. It has been most carefully examined. I would not in the slightest be surprised if the chairman of the committee had reached the point in the committee's considerations where he would be able to submit his report to this house. That will be a valuable document, and, if it is available first thing when we get to the study of this bill, I am sure we will be able to deal with the matter expeditiously, even if we do not meet Monday night.

Senator Frith: I agree with what Senator Roblin has said. It is generally acknowledged among honourable senators that Senator Hayden will be the quarterback—if I can use a timely phrase—of this bill in this chamber.

Senator Roblin: "Mastermind" would be a more suitable term.

Senator Frith: Yes, "mastermind" would perhaps be more accurate, if not superficially timely. I intend to ask Senator Hayden for his estimate on what will be required to achieve the objectives. If it turns out that he feels, because of the pre-study and because of everything Senator Roblin has mentioned, that a meeting on Tuesday afternoon, for example, would give us adequate time, then I will so report tomorrow and I will not call the Senate for Monday night. However, if he feels that he would like to have that extra time, then, to be perfectly candid, I intend to try to accommodate him because of what Senator Roblin has said as to his experience with the bill.

Hon. Salter A. Hayden: Honourable senators, possibly I should add a few words at this point, seeing that I have been designated as the "quarterback" for this bill. Incidentally, that is a novel description, because in real life I never achieved that position. Because I was built close to the ground, there were other areas in the game of rugby, as we used to play it, in which my special physical qualifications had more application. In any event, I do not expect those physical qualifications will have any application to the consideration of this bill.

While the tendency seems to be to favour not sitting on Monday night, I should just recite the problem we have. We have done a pre-study of the bill in relation to most of the