

should deal, and at present the committee cannot deal with these matters without special reference from the House. It will be observed that everything the committee does has to be reported to the Senate and has to receive the approval of the Senate. Further, this resolution cannot interfere with the right of His Honour the Speaker to submit nominations for appointment to the Senate service. That right of his honour the Speaker is provided for by statute, and any resolution that we can pass, or any rule that we can make, could not interfere with, or override his statutory power. So, as a matter of convenience, it is very desirable that the committee should be in a position to deal with matters touching the internal economy of the House, just as the Committee on Standing Orders is allowed to deal with matters that have not been specially referred to it.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—It is my intention to oppose the motion now made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax, but as it seems to be the desire of this hon. House to adjourn as soon as possible, perhaps it would be just as well to let the motion stand, until after the adjournment.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That may be the hon. gentleman's opinion, it is not mine.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—If not, I will have to oppose the motion. Does the hon. gentleman permit it to stand?

Hon. Mr. POWER—No, certainly not.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—My reason for opposing that motion is that it is completely out of order. The motion asks that the committee be authorized to deal in any matter without special reference, so that the committee may decide to pass resolutions on any questions that they imagine in the interests of the Senate. No later than yesterday we adopted a resolution, which was proposed by the hon. leader of the Government in this House, and seconded by the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, as follows:

That the Senators mentioned in the report of the Committee of Selection as having been chosen to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session, be and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute the several committees with which their respective names appear in said report, to inquire into and report upon such matters as may be referred to them from time to time; and the Committee on Standing Orders is authorized to send for persons, papers and records whenever required.

This is a very strong resolution, forbidding any committee to make any report on

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a question which has not been referred to it. After that resolution has been unanimously adopted, are we to pass another resolution authorizing the Special Standing Committee to do anything they please without reference from this body? I believe it is completely out of order, and before that motion is adopted I would like to have the opinion of the Speaker as to whether my views are correct or not.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—Is there an appeal to the Chair?

The SPEAKER—Yes, but I wish to have it discussed.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS—whatever resolution the committee adopts is not binding on the House until it is accepted by this Chamber. The general instructions to all committees are identical, except those to the Committee on Standing Orders. This case makes another exception. They can do more than the Committee on Standing Orders can. That committee can only act on what is referred to it. This committee can take up a subject of its own motion, if it affects the House, but no action is binding and nothing follows until that committee's report is adopted by the House. What harm can come from that? You might have a matter of trifling importance, or of considerable importance, that a member of the committee might not think it necessary to refer to the House, and it might be very important for the Internal Economy Committee, and for the Senate, that the matter should be discussed by the committee. We may first hear of it in a report from the committee, but we can make up our judgment just as well when we get the report from the committee as when the matter originates in this House. I see no constitutional objection, because it does not take out of the House any authority that does not belong to it. There are a great many things to be cared for. Perhaps the discipline of messengers, or the ventilation of the House, or a great many other questions might be taken up by the committee. My hon. friend to my left says this was the old practice of this House. I have no recollection of that, but it is no doubt correct, so that my hon. friend must see we are not violating any regulation of the House, nor any constitutional practice. I think this motion should be carried because it may be useful and helpful.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—I could understand perfectly well that a motion is in order, for