

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, I will be happy to discuss the motion tomorrow. I have had my notes ready for some time. I have delayed my remarks on a number of occasions because I wanted the sponsor of the motion to be present in the chamber when I spoke; and I have had difficulty in arranging to have him present on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Senator Frith: I will score a point on that one.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

VISIT OF CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Dalia Wood, rose pursuant to notice of Tuesday, June 11, 1985:

That she will call the attention of the Senate to the visit of a group of Canadian Parliamentarians to the Federal Republic of Germany at the invitation of the President of the Bundesrat, from May 17 to 24, 1985.

She said: Honourable senators, may I say that because of the time restriction I have shortened my prepared speech by approximately six pages. Therefore senators will have only the bare bones of my report.

I had the pleasure to participate in a delegation to the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegation travelled to Germany during the month of May, 1985, in response to the invitation of Dr. Lothar Spaeth, President of the Bundesrat. The original invitation had been issued by a delegation of the Bundesrat during its official visit to Canada in June, 1982, and re-extended by the two succeeding Presidents of the Bundesrat. The visit proved to be the first opportunity for the Canadian Senate to accept the invitation.

The Canadian parliamentary delegation was led by our Speaker, the Honourable Guy Charbonneau, and the following persons comprised the delegation: the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, the Honourable Maurice Riel, the Honourable Dalia Wood, the Honourable Heath Macquarrie, Mr. Lloyd Crouse, MP, Mr. Frank Oberle, MP, Chairman of the Canada-Germany Friendship Group, and Mr. John Reimer, MP.

The delegation visited and met with officials from three state governments, the Berlin House of Representatives, three municipal governments, and the federal government in Bonn. In addition, meetings and discussions were held with the Canada-Germany Parliamentary Group, and six groups of business leaders and spokesmen at the Nuclear Centre in Obrigheim, Heidelberg Technology Park, the Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm GmbH Company in Ottobrunn, the Berlin Centre for Innovation and New Business, the Axel Springer Publishing House in Berlin, and the German Association for Industry and Trade in Bonn.

The discussion throughout the trip of political issues of a general nature included: congratulations to Prime Minister Mulroney on his 1984 election victory; review of bilateral and multilateral issues amongst western allies, and between East and West; the question of support for President Reagan's SDI

proposal; strengthening of Canada's NATO role in Europe; the FGR government's concerns over the situation in Nicaragua; and the prospects for reunification of East and West Berlin, and eventually East and West Germany.

At a more specific and detailed level of political discussion, the topics most thoroughly considered were the arrangement for the two houses of the German federal government, the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, to resolve disputes in the event of an upper house veto; and whether the German institutions' experience in these matters had any applicability to the Canadian situation.

In particular, all bills, including bills which require the consent of the Bundesrat—those with financial effects on the Laender, approximately half of all bills submitted—are submitted to the Bundesrat before being introduced in the Bundestag. The Bundesrat committees then assess draft bills from a variety of perspectives, and propose changes where appropriate. Usually draft bills are returned to the Bundestag either with no objections, or with modifications that the cabinet can accept. In the case of an outright rejection by the Bundesrat, or of a refusal by the cabinet to accept the changes, a joint committee of both houses is responsible for resolving the disagreement. The activities of the Mediation Committee composed of members of both chambers are fairly heavy when there are different majorities in the two houses. Since 1983 there has been no appeal to the committee.

The Chairman of this Joint Mediation Committee, Dr. Dieter Posser, gave a background of the history of this committee, noting some of its successes and failures. The Canadian delegates expressed a strong interest in the functioning of the committee and its legal and constitutional precedents. Some interest was also expressed in the possible transfer of some of the principle to the Canadian parliamentary system. Unfortunately, due to a vote in the Bundesrat, the discussion session ended early, leaving many of the questions needing further consultation.

During the meetings and discussions with German business leaders and spokesmen, the matters examined were: the German nuclear industry and the pricing of Canadian uranium; Canadian-German consultation on SDI contracts; the prospects for co-operation between Europe and North America on future technology developments; Canadian markets for new German industrial products; whether extending credits to Poland actually may have hindered rather than helped the situation of most Poles; the recent exit from Germany of many guest workers which opened up jobs for young West Berliners; the better business climate in Canada as a result of the change of FIRA to Investment Canada; the desire of German investors to increase their investments in Canada; the recognition that some investment restrictions will remain to protect Canadian jobs and industries; the concern that increasing Canadian ties with the U.S.A. might preclude some German investment opportunities in Canada; the prospects for resumed European imports of Canadian seal pelts; and the necessity of a speedy settlement of the Grand Banks fishing dispute so that