

Senator Frith: Yes, if we can get all the points of order out of the way. Therefore, my suggestion is that we not put pressure on His Honour, since it would be of no particular advantage, and that we come back, as usual, next Tuesday with the assurance from the opposition side that we mean to have that bill out of here before the break.

Senator Haidasz: No chance!

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): I beg your pardon?

Senator Haidasz: I was not talking to you.

Senator Doody: I thought that you might have been, but I thank you for the assurance that you were not.

I thank Senator Frith for his comments. To the best of my knowledge at this time, the timetable he has presented for the House of Commons is what they are currently contemplating. However, I have been told that should this bill reach the other place they would try to deal with it immediately upon receiving it; that if they were to get the bill today, tomorrow, Monday or whenever, they would try to persuade the House of Commons to deal with it at that time.

Senator Frith: They would have to have unanimous consent to do that.

Senator Doody: That may be, but that is not something in which I can get involved.

Senator Frith: I can.

Senator Doody: That is right, but from this rather vulnerable position my responsibility is quite clear, and that is to try to move the bill out of this place and down to the other place as quickly as I can. However, I agree, without pinning myself to it, that Tuesday is probably a reasonable target date at this point. If His Honour can have his ruling ready prior to that time, I would like to be in a position to ask the Senate to reassemble to deal with it. Like Senator Frith, I am not trying to put undue pressure on His Honour, but I think it would be wrong not to be here if His Honour were ready to hand down his ruling, in which event I would ask that the Senate be called back to deal with the matter.

Senator Frith: May we ask His Honour if he feels comfortable with that timeframe of Tuesday?

Senator Simard: Or Monday.

The Hon. the Speaker: I would hope to be ready by Tuesday. Certainly I will work on it over the weekend.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I am not inviting His Honour to wait until Tuesday. I would encourage him to use all the facilities at his disposal to bring in his judgment as quickly as he can. Again, like Senator Frith, I am not trying to exert undue pressure; I simply reiterate that we would be ready to come back to deal with his ruling sooner, if His Honour were ready to present it earlier than Tuesday. If not, we will return on Tuesday.

Senator Frith: In that event, I offer, in advance, leave to revert to Notices of Motion.

Senator Doody: I shall check with my leader first, as I am on a day-to-day contract over here.

● (1540)

NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRANSATLANTIC TRADE RELATIONS (ECONOMIC COMMITTEE)

Hon. Duff Roblin rose pursuant to notice of February 13, 1990:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Trade Relations (Economic Committee) of the North Atlantic Assembly, held in Iberia from January 22 to 25, 1990.

He said: Honourable senators, I am a somewhat reluctant speaker today in view of the activities that have engrossed our attention for the last little while. I am afraid I have not anything nearly as exciting or interesting to say as the matters we have been discussing, but I appreciate the opportunity to report to this house some observations of mine that arise from a recent meeting of the NAA committee.

The Senate is well aware that the North Atlantic Assembly is the parliamentary adjunct of NATO and that NATO itself, for some 40-odd years, has been a most successful exercise in collective security. In elaborating that alliance, we find the NATO treaty in Article 2—an article which is generally not given much attention—provides:

parties will seek to eliminate conflicts in their international economic policies and will encourage economic cooperation between any and all of them.

Economic conflicts among the allies have been perceived from time to time and the North Atlantic Assembly has responded to such problems by setting up a committee on economic affairs. This committee includes in its mandate a study and report on economic frictions within the alliance and to suggest remedies for improvement.

Transatlantic trade relations is a particular object of study. The sub-committee charged with this reference has been at work for some time. It visited Canada recently and in January last it met in Iberia—by which I mean Portugal and Spain—to review with Portuguese and Spanish parliamentarians outstanding issues between those members of the alliance and North America. Questions of transatlantic frictions were certainly raised.

I must say that considerable apprehension was expressed about what was thought to be the rising tide of protectionism in the United States and reference was made to the malign influence of Super 301 from the United States omnibus tariff bill, where it was thought by the delegates from Spain and Portugal that the United States made itself prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner in trade disputes with other countries; I am at a loss to say whether I can fault that description in any great way.

As for Canada, they had words to say about us. They certainly did not like the way we were handling wine exports