

task. It is a tremendous task, and it is going to be appreciated not only by the House of Commons, but by the members of the Government themselves. A searching study was made by this committee. Due to illness I was absent during the past year a good deal of the time, but I watched what was being done, and I am more impressed every time I read the committee's proceedings. I hope to take an active part in the deliberations that are beginning tomorrow morning.

**Hon. Paul Martin:** Honourable senators, I think it is a fact that following the tabling of the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce on the White Paper on Taxation there was no debate in the Senate. Therefore, it is appropriate that reference should be made to the work of that committee on the important White Paper which, as the Minister of Finance insisted from the beginning, did not represent final policy, but a statement of propositions made with the view of encouraging a wide national debate.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn.** That is a fine speech; not the first.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** He succeeded in provoking that debate, as we are reminded by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Flynn). It is not necessary at this time to go over the ground that has been so ably covered by Senator Hayden, Senator Connolly (Ottawa West), Senator Walker and the Leader of the Opposition. However, I think that the Leader of the Opposition did make an important point when he mentioned what we would be doing if this motion is adopted, and that is that we would not be deciding the principle of the bill. That is only done when the House of Commons has discharged its duty in that particular, and when the measures come to us for legislative consideration and action. No legislative action is being proposed at this time in the motion put forward by Senator Hayden. Senator Hayden has indicated that the economy of the country and the Government's taxation program is geared to January 1. I think that this statement of his is important, because the economy of the nation is so vitally involved in this matter and the observance of the effective date of January 1 is no academic matter. It is of the greatest importance. The Senate has its responsibilities and, as Senator Walker mentioned a moment ago, rather than be caught at the last moment faced with the date of January 1, this house would want to take advantage of the opportunity of a program of pre-examination and study. As Senator Flynn has mentioned, that pre-examination does not in any way involve an exercise at this stage by the Senate of any legislative function.

Senator Hayden mentioned that there were precedents. These were delineated by Senator Connolly (Ottawa West). He mentioned the opportunity the Senate takes of looking at the details before an appropriation bill is finally dealt with by this house. Senator Hayden mentioned the investment bill that was carefully examined by the Senate in the fall of 1968, when a complete revision of that bill was made. The bill had not gone to the other place.

[Hon. Mr. Walker.]

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** It was introduced here though.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** It was introduced here, save for the money provisions of the bill, which would have made it unconstitutional or improper for us to deal with it. I think that precedent is a good one, and Senator Hayden himself had a great deal to do with that.

Senator Hayden mentioned an earlier proposal, in the form of a motion, which was actually dealt with in 1945. It might be useful if I read the text of that motion. It will be seen that Senator Hayden has properly drawn on some of the terms of that resolution for the motion now before us. The motion to which I refer as having been passed in 1945 was put on December 12, and read as follows:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Finance be authorized to examine and consider certain Bills on the Budget Resolutions in advance of the said Bills reaching the Senate.

In the way proposed, therefore, the effective date for implementation of the bill can be met, and at the same time the two Houses of Parliament, each exercising in the proper way their respective legislative functions in accordance with section 18 of the B.N.A. Act, will be able to discharge those functions. However, we are making it clear at this stage, as the Leader of the Opposition has done, and as Senator Hayden did, that we are not dealing with the principle of the bill; we are anticipating the bill, and we will deal with it properly in a legislative way after we have had an opportunity of giving it the study that will enable us to be fully informed as to the nature of the bill or what changes should be made to it.

Motion agreed to.

## LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### ADDITION TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald** moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1)(h):

That the name of the honourable Senator Laird be added to the list of senators serving on the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Motion agreed to.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO SIT DURING ADJOURNMENTS

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald,** with leave of the Senate, and notwithstanding Rule 45(1)(h), moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs have power to sit during adjournments of the Senate of more than one week.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** Why must the break be more than one week? If you can sit during adjournments, you can sit during adjournments.