

VETERANS AFFAIRS

MERCHANT NAVY VETERAN AND CIVILIAN WAR-RELATED BENEFITS ACT—EFFECT ON PARALLEL LEGISLATION

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I thank Senator Molgat for adjourning the debate on Order No. 1 last evening, and although I may be pre-empting him at this stage in the process, I want to bring the matter of Order No. 1 to the attention of the Senate at this time in order to simplify the process.

When Senator Molgat adjourned the second reading debate on Bill S-4, to amend the Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War-related Benefits Act, he explained that he wanted to find out whether the proposed bill, if enacted, would have an impact on other legislation, which is reasonable. After Senator Molgat raised this question, I looked into the matter and I have since learned that clause 3 of the bill would indeed have an effect on the War Veterans Allowance Act. Although the title of that act refers to the veterans covered by the act as "war veterans," the term "war veteran" as such does not appear in the body of the act. Instead, the single word "veteran" is used throughout the act as a defined term.

Since the Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War-related Benefits Act is parallel legislation to the War Veterans Allowance Act, it would, on reflection, certainly not be appropriate to have merchant navy veterans referred to as "war" veterans in the statute that applies to them when all other veterans of World War I and World War II are referred to throughout the War Veterans Allowance Act simply as "veterans." Indeed, this would be contrary to the original intent of Bill S-4, the purpose of which is, as I stated on February 23, to establish and reinforce consistency between the two acts. My intention in so doing is to reinforce recognition of the contribution made by war-time Canadian seamen.

This, I believe, would be achieved by ensuring that each act uses the same wording when referring to Canadian veterans who, in both world wars and in the Korean conflict, were directly involved in war-related operations.

Such consistency would be achieved if both the long and short title of the Merchant Navy Veteran and Civilian War-related Benefits Act were amended by inserting in them the word "war" to qualify the word "veterans" in the long title, and the word "veteran" in the short title. No further change would be necessary.

• (1410)

In order to allay Senator Molgat's concern, I believe that the solution is to remove clause 3 from the bill, and I am prepared to move a motion to that effect, either at the third reading stage of the bill or in committee, should the bill be referred to committee.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE ESTIMATES, 1993-94

REPORT OF NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE ON SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B) PRESENTED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present the second report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance concerning the examination of Supplementary Estimates (B) laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994. I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day, and that it form part of the permanent records of this house.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For text of report, see today's Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate p. 148)

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Doody, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

BILL TO AMEND—REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. C. William Doody, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, presented the following report:

Tuesday, March 22, 1994

The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the honour to present its

THIRD REPORT

Your committee, to which was referred Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, has, in obedience to the Order of Reference of Thursday, March 17, 1994, examined the said Bill and now reports the same without amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

C. WILLIAM DOODY
Chairman

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Molgat, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.