

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Let the doors to the chamber be locked.

Motion in amendment negated on the following division:

YEAS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Bélisle	LeBlanc
Bonnell	(<i>Beauséjour</i>)
Bosa	Lefebvre
Corbin	Lewis
Fairbairn	MacEachen
Frith	Marchand
Gigantès	Marsden
Grafstein	Molgat
Graham	Olson
Haidasz	Petten
Hastings	Riel
Hays	Simard
Hébert	Sparrow
Kirby	Stewart
Leblanc (<i>Saurel</i>)	Thériault—29

NAYS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Atkins	Lavoie-Roux
Barootes	Lynch-Staunton
Beaudoin	MacDonald
Berntson	(<i>Halifax</i>)
Bolduc	Macquarrie
Buchanan	Meighen
Castonguay	Murray
Cochrane	Nurgitz
Cogger	Oliver
David	Ottenheimer
DeWare	Poitras
Di Nino	Robertson
Dood	Roblin
Doyle	Ross
Eyton	Rossiter
Grimard	Spivak
Kelleher	Sylvain
Kelly	Teed
Keon	Tremblay—38
Kinsella	

ABSTENTIONS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Nil

The Hon. the Speaker: Let the doors be opened.

[*Translation*]

THIRD READING—MOTION IN AMENDMENT—DEBATE
ADJOURNED

Hon. Eymard Corbin: Honourable senators, I rise on the third reading of this bill. I spoke on the motion in amendment put forth by Senator Frith, a motion which unfortunately has just been defeated due to the overwhelming majority of the government.

However, I would not want to pass up the opportunity of underlining the importance that amendment had for certain senators, on the government side, especially Senators Simard and Bélisle.

They are, like many of us on this side of the House, members of a linguistic community in Canada referred to, in a derogatory way, as the linguistic minority. However, both they and I consider ourselves to be good Canadians, good French-speaking Canadians.

I believe that neither they nor I are ready to say that the battle is over and the war is lost. Absolutely not! We will continue to stand in this House, to put forth well-founded arguments to show that our linguistic claims are not based on discretionary power wielded by the government, by a letter signed by some minister who could be gone tomorrow, and his decisions with him. This is no way, in a democratic parliamentary system like our own, to enact legislation and to confirm established rights, because if we let matters stand, French-speaking Canadians outside Quebec will see a gradual erosion of other rights, until they are nothing more than objects of speculation for future researchers.

I am not ready to witness the erosion of rights for which we have been fighting as long as Quebec has been fighting for recognition as a distinct society. Francophones living elsewhere in the country are every bit as entitled to their distinctiveness as are Quebecers.

The saddest part in all this is that Quebecers are our closest relatives. I recently heard a senator opposite state that there