

Senator Roblin: Well, I certainly would not say to my honourable friend that he is a man of inconsiderable intellect. I will say he is a man of considerable intellect. I would not like to have any misunderstanding on that point, because I do not strive to be rude to colleagues in the chamber, although from time to time I might slip from that lofty purpose.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): By propensity.

Senator Roblin: Sometimes I find myself a little encouraged to fall into that way of speaking, but I really do not intend to be rude. I do not want my honourable friend to think that I am rude to him. But I can say that the statement made by the two leaders in Quebec is one of the most hopeful statements made on Canada-U.S. trade in my lifetime. I do not recall when a President of the United States has previously undertaken to do the best he can, under the regulation of their Constitution, to deal with the question of trade impediments and barriers between this country and the United States. I do not know when a more positive and hopeful statement has been made, and to say that it has no substance seems to me to indicate a misunderstanding of the situation.

● (1420)

Senator van Roggen: May I welcome the Leader of the Government as a convert, as he now appears to be, to free trade.

Senator Roblin: I have been following my honourable friend with the greatest of interest for many years.

THE SENATE

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEES TO INVITE PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIONS—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. John M. Godfrey: Honourable senators, I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hicks:

That whenever a bill or the subject-matter of a bill is being considered by a committee of the Senate—

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Are you going to accept this?

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): No.

Senator Godfrey:

—in which a province or provinces have a special interest, then as a general policy, the government of such province or provinces where practicable, shall be asked by the committee as to whether or not they wish to make written and/or verbal representations to the committee, and any province that replies in the affirmative shall be given a reasonable opportunity to do so.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Godfrey, seconded by the Honourable Senator Neiman:

That whenever a bill or the subject-matter of a bill—

An Hon. Senator: It was seconded by Senator Hicks.

The Hon. the Speaker: I am sorry.

That whenever a bill or the subject-matter of a bill—

Some Hon. Senators: Dispense.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Carried.

Senator Doody: No. Explain.

Senator Godfrey: You will go to any length to avoid hearing a speech from me.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am afraid that in the general merriment I have lost my place in the words and music. Just what is it that the Honourable Senator Godfrey thinks we have done?

Senator Godfrey: Pardon me?

Senator Roblin: What have we done?

Senator Godfrey: You have approved my motion. It is passed.

Senator Doody: No, no.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): The motion is carried.

Senator Roblin: Could I ask my honourable friend to explain?

Senator MacEachen: The motion is carried.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the motion is carried. However, with leave of the house, if honourable senators wish Senator Godfrey to speak on it—

An Hon. Senator: No.

The Hon. the Speaker: The motion is carried.

Some Hon. Senators: Yes.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, on a point of clarification, if nothing else, when His Honour the Speaker stood to read the motion I very clearly heard some honourable senators say, "Explain" from this side.

An Hon. Senator: That was "Dispense".

Senator Doody: I cannot say what other honourable senators heard. I am telling honourable senators what I heard and I know what I said. I said, "Explain" on several occasions. Obviously, nobody paid any attention to me. Now the motion has been carried. If that is the way it is going to be done, then that is the way it is going to be done. I just want to express my disappointment with the proceedings.

● (1430)

Senator Godfrey: You are expressing disappointment that you will not be hearing from me?