

Honorable Paul David: Honourable senators, I would like to join those who have already spoken to express how a Quebecer can feel about this difficult situation we are faced with.

I understand very well senator Frith's motion. I believe as a matter of fact that a certain protection should have been or should be provided for in the Act itself in order to preserve the Official Languages Act.

On another matter, in the province of Quebec, I know that serious negotiations have been going on for years, and more intensely these last six months, with Dorval and Mirabel airport authorities in order to establish a corporation combining both airports. Many boards of trade and important organizations have discussed this project, which will soon become reality and is in its last stages. We have had the minister's assurances that this clause, which affects Quebec less than New Brunswick, senators Simard, Corbin and Thériault, that this clause will be respected and included in the contract which is now going through its last stages of examination.

In the same vein, I believe that as francophones we should be sensitive to the difficulties which people can have in a province like New Brunswick. I believe that we should express to you what our feelings are for you every time we can.

So, I am torn between two feelings, one is to go ahead and reach an agreement as quickly as possible because there is a lot at stake economically for both airports, and the other is to provide guarantees for any lease you will have to sign in Moncton. For that reason, I believe that a sensible but sensitive analysis of these two feelings leads me to vote, in spite of objections that I understand very well, against Senator Frith's motion.

I hope to discover ways within the next few months to include in some amendment relating to this bill a provision quite similar to the one you are proposing.

Senator Thériault: Honourable senators, would Senator David allow me a question?

Senator David: No, I think I have expressed my opinion and I do not want to start a debate.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, before the Speaker puts the question, I would like to take part in the debate. Having done so in committee, I would not want to repeat myself now. I would suggest, as Senator Frith has already indicated that there would be a vote, that we agree to have the bell ring only for fifteen minutes. Could our two whips agree to this?

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, is it agreed by the two whips?

[English]

Senator Kelly: May I raise a question, honourable senators. Is that not something that would be considered after the vote has been called? The vote has not yet been called.

Senator Molgat: I realize that, but in this particular case Senator Frith has indicated that we will be calling a vote. I noticed last time that we wanted to have a short bell, and there was not the time. The bells were already ringing before we got

[Senator Th]

the matter settled. That is one thing we must look at in the *Rules of the Senate*. I was trying to clear it so we would not be in a position that the bells would ring, and then it was too late.

Hon William M. Kelly: If we are dealing with the future in this fashion, honourable senators, once the vote is called it will be my intention to ask that it be deferred.

[Translation]

MOTION IN AMENDMENT

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Grimard, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux, that this bill be read for the third time. In amendment, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator Fairbairn, that clause 4 of the bill be deleted and replaced by the following:

4. Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date the *Official Languages Act* apply, with such modifications as the circumstances require, to the authority in relation to the airport as if the authority were a federal institution and the airport were an office or facility of that institution, other than its head or central office.

● (1720)

[English]

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

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Some Hon. Senators: No.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Will those honourable senators in favour of the motion please say "yea"?

Some Hon. Senators: Yea.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Will those honourable senators who are against the motion please say "nay"?

Some Hon. Senators: Nay.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

Hon. William M. Kelly: Honourable senators, in accordance with rule 68(1), I request a deferral.

Hon. H.A. Olson: Until when? You did not say when.

Senator Kelly: Under the rules it would be at 5:30 tomorrow, or at the next sitting.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Has the whip looked at rule 68(3)?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): We have, and we will consider it.

Senator Kelly: The answer to that is yes.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: According to the rule, even on Thursday or Friday it must be taken at 5:30 in the afternoon.