

The Committee of Selection was charged with the responsibility of making a report to the Senate regarding the appointment of a Speaker *pro tem*. Discussions then took place between the leaders as to who would be an appropriate person. The name of Senator Molgat was suggested. He was asked and agreed to serve. That is the background of this report which deals only with the question of the Speaker *pro tem*.

Senator Roblin: Senator Molgat has maintained a becoming silence. If he would just nod his head to indicate his interest in accepting this offer, it would reassure me.

Motion agreed to.

SECOND REPORT ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the Second Report of the Committee of Selection, which was presented earlier today.

Hon. William J. Petten: Honourable senators, I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Bonnell, that the report be now adopted.

Hon. David A. Croll: Honourable senators, I am opposed to the motion for reasons which I shall state on another appropriate occasion. Moreover, I am opposed to any amendment to the motion at any stage where my name is used without my prior consent having been received.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I would like to make a small observation here in connection with a change to our rules which indicates that the leaders on either side of the house or their deputies may be *ex officio* members of committees, depending on who happens to be present at a meeting. In other words, if Senator Flynn appears at a committee *ex officio*, then I as his deputy shall not. However, if he is not there and I do appear, then I am accorded the honour of being an *ex officio* member.

I suggested that some indication of this change in our rules be offered in the list. Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the new list that was circulated earlier this evening. However, I would like to be informed whether or not the change in the rules allowing for the possibility of two *ex officio* members is indicated on our sheet.

Senator Petten: It is on my sheet, Senator Roblin.

Senator Roblin: Thank you. I just did not have the latest copy.

Motion agreed to.

INCOME TAX

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED
TO STUDY SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-2

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motion:

Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government), with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), moved:

[Senator Frith.]

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce be authorized to examine the subject matter of Bill C-2, intituled: "An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to make related amendments to the Canada Pension Plan and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971," in advance of the said bill coming before the Senate, or any matter relating thereto.

● (2130)

He said: Honourable senators, this motion is intended to provide an opportunity for the Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce to conduct a pre-study on what has become known as the income tax amendments bill. These amendments flow from the budget and the committee is geared to commence its pre-study tomorrow.

The other place has adopted a house order to accelerate its consideration of this bill. That house order provides that there will be a maximum of 20 minutes' debate given to each party. That debate is to commence at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday of this week. That house order also states that the bill will be voted on at third reading, with all necessary questions being put, no later than 4 o'clock. That assumes that each of the three parties uses its full 20 minutes.

There is also an agreement that there will be a 15-minute bell. That means that this bill will be voted on at third reading and probably passed by the other place on Wednesday of this week at approximately 4:30 p.m.

For reasons that I hope will commend themselves to honourable senators, this bill must be passed by the end of this year. There are good reasons for that, and I intend to explain some of them later. If we are to pass this bill by the end of this year, we will have to sit on Thursday and Friday of this week or between Christmas and the New Year. This will have to be discussed by the leadership in the Senate, as well as by the two caucuses.

There are various possibilities. We could sit on Wednesday evening and resume early Thursday morning, at which time we would have the report from the committee on the pre-study and could debate the matter until we felt we had had sufficient debate. On the other hand, we could go into Committee of the Whole and have the minister present to answer questions.

I am ready to attempt to arrange whatever the leadership in the Senate and the two caucuses wish to have happen, but I am bound to advise honourable senators that the government wishes to have this bill passed by the end of the year.

When it became apparent that we would not receive the bill until Wednesday, I asked why it required passage by the end of the year, and the reasons I was given I shall put on the record in a moment so that all honourable senators can read them tomorrow, since we do not have to deal with this matter until Wednesday when the bill is received. One reason most honourable senators are familiar with is that a number of the measures proposed in the tax legislation affect 1983 T-1 returns filed by low and middle-income taxpayers. Typically, because they receive refunds they file their tax returns early.