

I suggest to my honourable leader that the rules should be amended so as to provide that when a session of Parliament comes to an end, not by dissolution but by prorogation, upon resumption of the same Parliament in a new session, consideration of that legislation should be continued from the point at which it was interrupted. I think that procedure would be proper and convenient, and would expedite the dispatch of business.

Hon. Mr. Hollett: Would the honourable leader give us any idea as to approximately when the Christmas recess will begin—subject to correction?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Well, certainly we will not be sitting at Christmas. Much depends upon when the budget debate takes place, because those are days that are legislatively unproductive for the Senate. If the budget debate continues until the Commons takes its Christmas recess, then our recess might begin a good deal earlier. Likewise, assuming the session goes over into next year, as it likely will, there will not be any legislation for us to consider when the Commons reassembles.

I cannot give an exact date, but it would be sufficiently in advance of Christmas to enable the honourable senator from Newfoundland to get home for Christmas.

Hon. Mr. Hollett: To hang up my stocking!
Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 9, 1966

THIRD READING

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets moved the third reading of Bill C-248, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1967.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, I want just to tell you that this morning we had a most profitable and useful sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance. The witness was Dr. Davidson, the Secretary of the Treasury Board, and the meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Senator Leonard.

We learned important things about the Treasury Board. We learned, first, that there are at the present time no regulations governing the Treasury Board, such as there are with respect to other government agencies. However, Dr. Davidson told us that in October next there will be regulations of some kind.

Another matter of great importance that was told us—and I take the liberty of informing you about it today because it will be several days before you receive a printed copy of the report—is that the Minister of National Revenue has replaced the Minister of Finance as the head of the Treasury Board; there are six cabinet ministers who are appointed to the Treasury Board, and they have also eight substitutes. Moreover, the Governor in Council may appoint additional members of the Privy Council, not necessarily members of the cabinet, to the Treasury Board.

Another matter that will interest you and about which Dr. Davidson spoke openly, is that there is no provision for a quorum on the Treasury Board. As I said, six cabinet ministers head the Treasury Board, they have eight substitutes, and they may have additional substitutes, but there is no regulation whatever concerning the quorum. Dr. Davidson added that as a rule there are three who meet together on Thursday afternoons to consider matters that are submitted to the Treasury Board.

Honourable senators, I thought you would be interested in knowing about these matters, and that is why I have taken the liberty of informing you of them at this time.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

ROYAL ASSENT

NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received the following communication.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Ottawa

30 November, 1966

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Robert Taschereau, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor-General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 30th November, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
A. G. Cherrier
Assistant Secretary
to the Governor General

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate