

its jurisdiction, its responsibility to protect regional and minority interests and its relationship with legislative bodies.

Extensive hearings and discussions were held, with the result that when the Thirtieth Parliament was dissolved the committee was in the process of preparing its second report. You will notice that my motion calls for the papers and evidence received and taken on the subject in the 3rd and 4th Sessions of the Thirtieth Parliament to be referred to the committee. I believe that that will mean a substantial economy in cost and effort, and will permit the committee to move on toward the tabling of a second report with reasonable dispatch.

I would ask all honourable senators to support this motion to reconstitute the Special Committee of the Senate on the Constitution.

Senator Smith (Colchester): I wonder, honourable senators, if I might ask Senator Stanbury if he envisages that the committee will be likely to do anything more than complete its

report. In other words, is it the hope or expectation that the committee will continue taking evidence and embark on a wider study than that which has been done so far?

Senator Stanbury: Honourable senators, as you can see, the motion is broad enough to allow the committee to follow whichever course it pleases. My understanding from discussions we have had concerning the matter is that at the present time it is not the intention to proceed further than the discussion of matters relating to the Senate.

Whether either the steering committee, which will have to be developed, or the committee itself will feel that more evidence and more discussion will be required before putting together a report, I cannot say; but I do realize that there will be many new senators on any such committee and that, therefore, that must be recognized as a possibility.

On motion of Senator Macdonald, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, December 18, at 2 p.m.

The Thirty-first Parliament was dissolved by Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General on December 14, 1979