

that I can make it any clearer. Having discussed the matter with Senator Leblanc, I said that if we come back to deal with this bill either next week or the following week or both, it would not be reasonable to hold the matter in his name for debate. So we would proceed with the second reading debate, and if we completed it we would not hold it in Senator Leblanc's name, but we would insist that the bill go to committee. That is all.

Senator Roblin: It seems to me quite unusual that a member of the Senate who is chairman of the committee to which the bill is to be sent, who knew at the time that he adjourned the debate yesterday that he would not be here to resume the debate, and who will not speak to the matter today, because, he says, he has matters of grave import that are bothering him that he wishes to ventilate in the Senate, is going to go away for two weeks and we will be dealing with the bill, anyway, in his absence.

Senator Frith: Forget it!

Senator Roblin: So his views will not be presented in that way.

Senator MacEachen: Forget it!

Senator Frith: Duff, come on!

Senator Roblin: This seems to me to be a very poor way to contribute to the operations of the Government of Canada in Parliament. Now, having said that—

Senator Frith: For the very reasons you mentioned, I raised this matter with Senator Leblanc.

Senator Roblin: Good for you!

Senator Frith: And you are still saying that it is unusual and improper. All I get for my pains is a lecture. Forget it!

Senator Roblin: You may have raised it with Senator Leblanc, but you did not do anything effective about it, did you? Nothing at all.

Senator Frith: Yes, I did. I dealt with the very question you are concerned about; namely, whether the bill would be held awaiting the return of Senator Leblanc.

Senator Roblin: Good for you! That's fine!

Senator Frith: I said that to you five times.

Senator Roblin: How delightful. It still means that we had this charade yesterday, the adjournment of the debate by an honourable senator who knew that he would not be here to debate the matter. If that is not a charade, I would like to know what is.

Senator Frith: So it is a charade. Well, we will remember that on another occasion.

Senator Roblin: Now, we come back to the main issue, and that is, what do we do next? It is perfectly obvious to me from what we have heard that the proposals I have made are not acceptable to the opposition. I have to accept that because there are more of them than there are of us. That is a fact one can never lose sight of in this chamber. I think that the best

thing to do is to forget about the adjournment for the next week, and let the House of Commons go. We do not have to go. We can come back next week and conduct our business in the usual way from Tuesday on.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Frith: We can forget about trying to be helpful.

Senator MacEachen: The Leader of the Government said that we should forget about an adjournment next week. That seems to me to be a bit misleading, because when you pick up the Scroll, which was delivered to my office at 12 o'clock, you see a motion saying that when the Senate adjourns today, it is to stand adjourned until Tuesday, February 18. It was my assumption from the moment—

Senator Frith: Talk about charades!

Senator Flynn: You must be losing your mind!

Senator MacEachen: —that the Scroll arrived in my office that we would be meeting next week. Therefore, we shall meet next week in accordance with the motion which was put forward by the government early this morning. Why go through this blackmail, with the government saying, "If you pass three bills instantly, you can go away next week." We are not buying that.

Senator Roblin: I have to tell my honourable friend, without betraying any confidences, that he knows that this is not the first time that the question of our activities for next week was raised. That is a fact. It is also a fact that the resolution we have on the order paper is a customary one, but that by no means prevents the Senate from making another arrangement if it deems it advisable to do so. We have done this on many occasions.

Senator Flynn: Silly behaviour!

Senator Frith: I agree, your behaviour.

Senator Roblin: In the past we have had the order paper printed with the regular resolution on it and then, in order to deal with the particular situation, we have adjusted our program accordingly. I was hopeful that we would be able to do the same thing again, but we cannot, so we are going to meet next week on Tuesday.

Senator Frith: Good!

Senator MacEachen: Honourable senators, I have a further point. Yesterday the Leader of the Government told us, as is recorded at page 2009 of *Debates of the Senate* the following:

I am not urging undue haste in examining this bill because we certainly will have all of next week to do so.

That is the statement made by the Leader of the Government from his seat yesterday in reference to the bill that was to be spoken to by Senator Leblanc. I took him seriously, particularly when I saw the motion on the Scroll that we were to meet next week.

● (1440)

Senator Flynn: So what?