

in that letter? She told us in committee that she wanted nothing to do with official languages.

Many questions have not been answered, Senator Grimard. We French-speakers who live in provinces other than Quebec are extremely concerned about what is happening.

I would ask you as a friend. We had words in the past, but it was not out of malice. As a friend, would you answer my concerns today?

Senator Grimard: Senator Corbin, as far as the minister, Mrs. Martin, is concerned, I was in the committee when she spoke. She did not say that she did not care a hoot about official languages. She said that it was not her problem at that point and that there were people in her department who could explain the situation.

I think that some people, not only in her department, were questioned by the committee, in particular Mr. Auger from Montreal. You were there, Senator Corbin. You know that Mr. Auger represented not only the Montreal airports and Mirabel but that he said he was the official spokesman for the other three airport authorities.

Mr. Auger told us that he was quite content to live with the bill. Where we disagree is when you do not seem to understand the difference between a national organization like Air Canada and a local entity like an airport authority.

When you deal with Air Canada, whether it be in Rouyn-Noranda, Moncton, Montreal, Vancouver or some other place, you deal with that airline from beginning to end, but when you go to the airport in Moncton, Rouyn-Noranda or Montreal, for example, you deal with local authorities.

Air Canada is run the same way in Rouyn-Noranda, Moncton, and Montreal. But the airports I just mentioned are not run the same way and that is why I use the expression local entity. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that there is a great deal of difference between the enforcement of official languages at Air Canada and in dozens of airports run by different entities and local authorities throughout Canada. That is what I am trying to explain. I have nothing to add in answer to your question.

Senator Corbin: Honourable senators, since no other senator wishes to speak, I rise to close the debate.

● (1630)

[English]

Senator Frith: You do not close the debate on third reading.

Senator Corbin: I was informed that I could do that.

Some Hon. Senators: Question.

Senator Corbin: Can I or can I not speak on third reading? I heard Senator Frith say that I cannot.

Senator Frith: No, I said that you do not close the debate. No one closes the debate on third reading. You have spoken on third reading and moved the amendment. Therefore it is quite right that you cannot speak again.

Senator Corbin: Honourable senators, while the matter is being researched, I will close the debate on the amendment.

[Senator Corbin.]

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, Rule 36 states:

A senator who has moved the second reading of a bill—

That is not the case here.

—or made a substantive motion or an inquiry shall have the right of final reply.

That is not the case here. Therefore, I will put the question.

It was moved by the Honourable Senator Grimard, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux:

That this Bill be read the third time.

[Translation]

The Hon. the Speaker: In amendment, it is moved by the honourable senator Corbin, seconded by the honourable senator Molgat:

That the Bill be amended by striking out Clause IV and substituting the following therefor: Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date Parts IV, V, VI, VIII, IX and X of the *Official Languages Act* apply, with such modifications as the circumstances require, to the authority in relation to the airport as if

(a) the authority were a federal institution; and

(b) the airport were an office or facility of that institution, other than its head or central office.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion in amendment?

[English]

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

Some Hon. Senators: Yea.

The Hon. the Speaker: Will those honourable senators opposed to the motion please say "nay"?

Some Hon. Senators: Nay.

The Hon. the Speaker: In my opinion, the "nays" have it. *And two honourable senators having risen.*

Senator Kelly: Honourable senators, I would ask for a 30-minute bell.

The Hon. the Speaker: Please call in the senators. The Senate adjourned to the call of the bell.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Let the doors to the chamber be locked.