

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, that will be a matter for the leadership of the government side of the House of Commons. When those members are appointed, I will be glad to communicate the information to the honourable senator.

**Senator Marsden:** I wonder if the Leader of the Government would also tell us the grounds on which such members are considered to be expert in this area.

**Senator Olson:** They need only be Conservatives.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, Parliament, perhaps with the exception of my honourable friend, is composed of people who are admittedly generalists, but who take special interest in certain fields of public policy.

There are members of the Senate, as there are members of the other place, who as parliamentarians specialize in those fields.

I would not take it upon myself to try to impose artificial criteria. The members who have taken special interest in those fields and have spoken out on such matters are generally recognized by their peers as having, in parliamentary terms at any rate, a certain expertise in those fields.

[Translation]

#### BILL C-21

DATE OF PROCLAMATION—EFFECT OF LIBERAL CONVENTION

**Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. At the same time, I would like to him a chance to send a clear message to the people of New Brunswick and other Canadians.

My question concerns Bil C-21. I know this item is number one on the agenda. However, for several days now we have heard we might be away until June 26. Honourable senators, there are people back home who like to hear about constitutional issues but they are also interested in manpower training. They want to take advantage of various measures that are included in Bill C-21.

**Hon. Jacques Hébert:** What is your question, Senator Simard?

**Senator Simard:** My question is this: Does the Leader of the Government believe that following the events in Calgary, on June 23, we could expect to see a solution to this problem? According to you, Senator Murray, would the choice of a Liberal leader be a significant factor in solving this problem, in other words, the passage of Bill C-21?

As far as I am concerned, the Government of New Brunswick and the Government of Quebec, to name only those two, continue to make representations to senators representing those two provinces.

**Hon. L. Norbert Thériault:** Never!

**Senator Simard:** I also understand Mr. McKenna and Mr. Bourassa have appealed to the Prime Minister and to federal ministers to use every means at their disposal to find a solution to this dilemma.

**Senator Hébert:** They are asking for a conference?

[Senator Marsden.]

**Senator Simard:** It isn't enough to say a conference has been requested. It is not enough to say we are busy with constitutional matters and will deal with Bill C-21 later on. I wish you would tell us, Senator Murray, if, considering your privileged status as a member of the government and also as Leader of the Government and your privileged relationship with the leadership in the other place, whether you still entertain any hopes of seeing Bill C-21 adopted, whether there is a conference or not. That was the first part of my question, honourable senators.

**Hon. Senators:** Good question, senator.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Federal-Provincial Relations)):** Honourable senators, I can inform this chamber that during the recent First Ministers conference, two provincial Premiers, Mr. Bourassa of Quebec and Mr. McKenna of New Brunswick, spoke to me about Bill C-21 which they would like to see adopted . . .

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Passed?

**Senator Murray:** . . . passed by the Senate, which is very important. I don't know what position will be taken by Mr. Chrétien, the future leader of the federal Liberal Party on this matter, but at any rate, we can expect the return of common sense to in the Liberal Party.

**Senator Simard:** Thank you, Senator Murray. I will put the second part of my question next Tuesday.

[English]

REQUEST FOR SENATE-HOUSE OF COMMONS CONFERENCE

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, may I ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate a question? In view of Senator Simard's urging and his own conversations with Premiers McKenna and Bourassa, will the Leader of the Government in the Senate do all he can to expedite the holding of a conference with the House of Commons so that the prospect of Bill C-21 becoming law can be realized soon?

● (1530)

I am prompted to ask that question, not only by what Senator Simard has said but also by the fact that when this house sent Bill S-17 to the other place last week, which would have had the effect of bringing in the variable regional employment requirements, it was defeated on first reading in the other place by a vote of 108 to 58, as recorded in the *House of Commons Debates* of June 18, 1990. In view of the fact that training is not going forward and that the extension of the variable entrance requirements has been defeated by the government in the House of Commons, will the Leader of the Government do everything in his power to assemble a conference at the earliest possible date?

**Senator Frith:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, the device of a conference between the two houses