

sonally I feel that this is a subject which could be usefully discussed by our Internal Economy Committee and perhaps we should take time to discuss it thoroughly in the Senate itself. I think it would be of tremendous help to the Chair and to both leaders if a clear policy could be adopted in this matter, and, of course, such policy should be adopted by all honourable senators who are the ones most directly concerned.

However, honourable senators, that is the situation as it exists at the present time, and personally I would very much like to see a clear policy established so that in future we may be able to deal with requests of this kind, particularly when they deal with the use of the Senate chamber during adjournments.

As I say, honourable senators, I think it would be worthwhile if our Internal Economy Committee examined this matter.

**Hon. Paul Martin:** I welcome the intervention of Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) in this discussion. I think he has expressed what most of us feel. We must keep in mind that this is one of the Houses of Parliament, and generally the use of a House of Parliament is a restricted one. This certainly is the case in the United Kingdom and it has been our tradition in both this chamber and the House of Commons.

Referring to the suggestion of Senator McDonald that the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians should meet here tomorrow, let me point out that since they are a parliamentary group they would be more than welcome to have the use of this chamber. I agree completely with the view expressed by Senator McDonald in asking the Senate for its concurrence. But it is also my view that Senator Connolly has raised a valid point. I feel it would be extremely useful to have this matter examined carefully by the Internal Economy Committee so that in the absence of any clear precedent a definite policy can be established.

I believe that the meeting under the auspices of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to which Senator Connolly referred a moment ago was not in fact a meeting of NATO parliamentarians, but a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly. I remember very well that it was composed of a body of individuals not all of whom were serving in any parliamentary or governmental capacity. For instance, the present Ambassador of the United States, Mr. Schmidt, was at that time the head of that body. It is also quite true that they did not meet within our precincts. But I should think that when an outside international parliamentary body is in Ottawa, the situation is somewhat different and we should perhaps adopt a more liberal view about the use by such a body of this chamber.

Another point which Senator Connolly regards as being important, and one which we should not overlook—although I am afraid I have overlooked it myself when requests have been put to me—is that for two years now we have had here in Ottawa, in the old Union Station, a handsome conference centre for federal-provincial conferences and many other conferences of a governmental

character. Many bodies that normally apply for the use of this chamber, or that of the House of Commons, could well be accommodated there. That is something that the Internal Economy Committee might bear in mind when it comes to consider the question in substance.

**Hon. Rhéal Belisle:** Honourable senators, I want to make it quite clear that I have no objection to this chamber being used for any good purpose which the Leader of the Government and His Honour the Speaker feel is *bona fide*, in the sense that the gathering qualifies as an international conference. However, I object to having the Internal Economy Committee look into this matter. In my experience, more often than not, that committee has only created confusion in such instances, so I definitely object to its considering such a matter.

**Hon. Mr. Smith:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Belisle:** I suggest that we appoint an *ad hoc* committee of the Senate to look into this matter.

**Hon. Orville H. Phillips:** Honourable senators, I want to make just one brief interjection, in order to point out that there has been a tradition in the Senate that we are among equals. I find it strange that both Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) and Senator Martin should think that the Leader of the Government and His Honour the Speaker should make the decisions. Whether it is recognized or not, there is still an Opposition in the Senate, and I feel that, as among equals, we should be entitled to a say in this regard.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Choquette:** Who started all this?

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the Orders of the Day:

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald:** Honourable senators, I wonder if I might attempt to qualify a statement I made yesterday regarding what the Senate can anticipate in the way of business over the next few days.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** Will it really lead to clarification?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I hope it will be a little clearer. Today the rumours are about as strong as they were yesterday, and stronger than they were the day before.

It is almost impossible to anticipate what is going to happen with respect to Bill C-262 that is now before the other place. I know that all honourable senators wish to deal with the legislation immediately it is made available to us, but from the best information I have been able to gather from both the supporters of the Government and the members of the Opposition in the other place, really I do not have a clear indication as to when that bill will come to us.

In those circumstances, perhaps it would be advisable for us to adjourn to a later date, subject to recall at 24 hours' notice, because when the bill comes out of committee in the other place and back into the house it will