

monitored in a way that would make it possible for us to receive written briefs and perhaps, in exceptional circumstances, actually to have people come to Ottawa to give their views. So we disagree. I do not think I can say anything more. That is the justification for the item.

Senator Roblin: I want to advise my honourable friend that I hope the committee will be able to give us a report as to the effectiveness of this expenditure. I will want to know how much was spent, when the ads were placed, and what replies they received, because \$40,000 is a lot of advertising. I think the proposition is dubious. I am willing to wait and see, but I certainly hope for a report on the effectiveness of the whole campaign.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I think that is a reasonable request.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, there is an item in the budget for travel expenses by the committee for nine senators and staff. I wonder whether the Deputy Leader of the Opposition could tell us when the committee received authorization to travel. I do not see it in the November 9 motion that the Leader of the Opposition moved to set up the committee nor do I see it in the first report of the special committee, which was presented and adopted yesterday.

Senator Frith: That is right, honourable senators; the committee does not have authority to travel and that is why the budget is being presented for approval, because we try, in accordance with a system that we set up some years ago, not to ask the Senate to give authority, first, to hire professional services in some cases and, second, to travel without senators knowing, in both cases, how much it would cost. This is consistent with the procedure we developed of not asking the Senate to give authority to a committee to do things that cost money without having some idea of how much. The idea was to present the costs to the Internal Economy Committee and have the Internal Economy Committee pass on it; then have it come to the Senate for a vote, with the cost specified and approved by the Internal Economy Committee. If it wants to travel, it is going to have to come back, as is implied in the question by the Leader of the Government, for that authority.

Senator Roblin: I am glad that point was cleared up, because otherwise it seems to me that by this device we have a backdoor method of approving travel which the Senate itself has not agreed to. I must say that it seems to be a curious way to go about things, but I am relieved to hear that, before that money is spent, we will be asked our opinions as to whether or not this committee should travel.

Senator Frith: We have had some difficulty getting this principle into a generally accepted and well-working procedure, but the thought behind it is simply as explained, not just for this committee but for all committees, that a committee does not come to the Senate and say we want authority to do X, Y and Z; and that the senators then ask, "We might give you authority, but could you tell us how much it would cost?"

It is difficult, because you get the cart before the horse or the chicken before the egg cycle, but I think we have picked the best of the two by deciding not to ask for authority until we can tell the Senate the cost.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

When do you think the Chairman or the majority on the committee would ask the Senate for permission to travel? Has the decision been made? Has the committee concluded that it will travel? Do you intend to ask today or at a later date for permission to travel?

Senator Frith: No, this decision would certainly be made by the committee itself.

[English]

Hon. Efstathios William Barootes: May I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition a question with respect to the travel? I am a little confused. I see they have a possible arrangement for three days for seven people at \$804, totalling \$13,668. Could you tell me what the destination would be for the \$804 return fare?

Senator Bonnell: Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Senator Barootes: Winnipeg?

Senator Bonnell: Where else would you want to go?

Senator Barootes: I thank your acolyte for answering that.

● (1440)

With reference to the item for ground transportation, four buses at \$100 per bus, what is the purpose of those four buses? Perhaps I could ask that question as well.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I do not know the answer to that question. Perhaps the deputy chairman could tell us.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, there is no answer.

Senator Frith: It seems to me that that is part of the question. You will have to find that out, senator, when they come and ask for the authority.

Senator Barootes: I thank the honourable senator.

Senator Roblin: Allow me to observe that I do not think the new procedure is very satisfactory. It has not solved anything, and we are put into the position where a committee is being backed into the question of travel by avoiding the necessity of asking for permission to travel on the motion establishing the committee, and the matter comes back to us in this way.

As I understand it, however, my friend is telling me that the committee cannot travel until such time as the Senate deals with this matter.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, this matter continues to arise in this chamber. It is strange that the solution is certainly getting as much criticism as the problem did. Some years ago,