

• (2220)

## LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

Leave having been given to revert to Motions:

**Hon. Gérald-A. Beaudoin**, pursuant to notice of June 19, 1995, moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs have the power to sit from Monday, September 25 to Friday, September 29, 1995 inclusive, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that rule 95(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and pursuant to rule 31, I propose to modify the motion to read:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs have the power to sit from Tuesday, September 26 to Friday, September 29, 1995 inclusive, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that rule 95(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is leave granted to amend the motion as proposed by Honourable Senator Beaudoin?

**Hon. Sharon Carstairs:** Honourable senators, may I ask a question of Senator Beaudoin?

Does this mean that the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs could not sit between now and September 26, or could the committee also sit between now and September 26?

**Senator Beaudoin:** The purpose of this motion is to allow the committee to sit while the house is sitting because, obviously, in the second part of September, this Senate may be called back. We want to be quite sure that the committee can sit at that time in accordance with the rules.

As to the second part of your question, I do not consider that we are precluded from doing sitting between now and September 26. When the committee adjourns, it will adjourn to the call of the Chair.

I do not want to take a chance that the Senate may be sitting during the second part of September and the committee would have to cancel its meetings.

[Translation]

**Hon. Eymard G. Corbin:** Honourable senators, I have a question for Senator Beaudoin. He referred to dates in September. Until then, we still have the rest of July, the whole month of August and the first half of September.

There seems to be no reason why you could not sit during the next few weeks. If the Senate happens to be sitting at the time you want to schedule your meetings, you can go to the Senate and ask for permission to sit in committee while the Senate is sitting.

I do not see why you are anticipating a hypothetical situation this far ahead, that is to say, whether or not the Senate will be sitting at the time you want to sit in committee in September.

I do not see why you cannot sit right away. After all, you have plenty of time during the summer.

[English]

**Hon. P. Derek Lewis:** Honourable senators, I believe the committee simply wants to plan and organize its witnesses. The members need time to do that. If the Senate sits in that week, there may not be time to get permission then to sit while the Senate is sitting. That was part of the reason for this motion.

[Translation]

**Senator Beaudoin:** Honourable senators, I just do not want to waste two precious days. Yes, I could move a motion when we come back. It is very likely the Senate will be recalled at that time. However, if I wait until the Senate is recalled, it will take a day or two before we can sit.

As for why we could not sit on some other day, as I told Senator Carstairs, there is of course no objection to sitting earlier.

I wonder, however, why we are hearing these remonstrations against the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. For the past year and a half at least, the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee has been sitting more often than any other committee.

Of course we can sit in July, August and September and even on Christmas day. I have no objection. In any case, the committee needs a quorum to be able to sit. That is one point I am considering.