

are descended. The French recognized that about a hundred years later, we were already different from them, all the more so the English-speaking population of Canada. I would like to be able to answer your question, but to do that, I would like to have the time to do some really serious research.

Senator Molgat: Honourable senators, you say that both before and since the Conquest, French Canadians were always recognized as a distinct society. The native people are then even more distinct, since they were here before the whites and existed as peoples. Do they not have just as much right to call themselves a distinct society using exactly the same criteria that you have stated?

Senator David: Honourable senators, we are playing with words to a certain extent. I used the word "distinct" because it was used in the Meech Lake Accord. I am willing to have a deal with the aboriginal peoples. There will be a different word that will represent any philosophy you want. That analysis was made within the accord which, unfortunately, failed. Quebec wanted to be recognized as a distinct society. That demand goes back 350 years, whereas Ovide Mercredi's demand was made a few days ago.

Senator Molgat: Mr. Mercredi will tell us that his demand goes back 10,000 years since they were already here. I have another question which concerns my own group. For us, francophones who live outside Quebec, like Senator Simard, Senator Corbin, Senator Thériault who is not here at the moment, French is our first language and English our second language. Do we not belong to a distinct society?

Senator David: I think you belong to the same society as our ancestors. When I said there were six millions francophones, I was talking about the millions in Quebec and probably the million or so francophones who live outside Quebec. We cannot isolate each group and say there is a distinct society in Quebec, another one in Vancouver, another one in Moncton, another one here and another one there. I see the whole province as a distinct society. I think Quebec must be very thoughtful, very understanding, very warm and very generous towards all francophone populations outside its jurisdiction.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I would have a lot to say about what Senator David just said. I will reflect on that and will talk about it at a later date. Therefore, I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Senator Corbin, debate adjourned.

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE SERVICES

Hon. Jean-Maurice Poitras, for Senator Kirby, pursuant to notice of Friday, February 28, 1992, moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purpose of its examination and consideration of such bills, subject-matter of bills and estimates as are referred to it.

Honourable senators, Senator Kirby has asked me to speak on his behalf. I want to say that the report which has been submitted dealt particularly with research on all sections of the bills concerning the financial institutions, and I move that the report be adopted.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Poitras, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lewis, that the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purpose of its examination and consideration of such bills, subject-matter of bills and estimates as are referred to it. Is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, does that mean that it deals with the pre-studies?

The Hon. the Speaker: So, is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

• (1710)

[English]

AIRPORT TRANSFER (MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS) BILL

THIRD READING—MOTION IN AMENDMENT NEGATIVED ON DIVISION

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Grimard, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lavoie-Roux, for the third reading of Bill C-15, An Act to provide for certain matters respecting official languages, employees' pensions and labour relations in connection with the transfer of certain airports,

And on the motion in amendment of the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Fairbairn, that clause 4 of the Bill be deleted and replaced by the following:

4. Where the Minister has sold, leased or otherwise transferred an airport to a designated airport authority, on and after the transfer date the Official Languages Act applies to the airport authority, 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.—
(Division deferred pursuant to Rule 68 (3)).

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, pursuant to rule 7(2) the sitting is suspended until 5:15 p.m. The bells will ring for 15 minutes and the vote will take place at 5:30 p.m.

The Senate adjourned to the call of the bell.