

95, I would now move that this bill be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Senator Frith: You have to get second reading first.
Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Senator Macquarrie: Honourable senators, I am sorry if I seem to have jumped the gun. I have been thinking of the last words that Sir John A. Macdonald uttered on Parliament Hill, when he said to Mackenzie Bowell, "It's getting late, Bowell." It is not too far from the arrival of Her Excellency's representative. I therefore take this opportunity, in the proper sequence of events, to move that this bill be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

On motion of Senator Macquarrie, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACT

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Nurgitz, seconded by the Honourable Senator Macquarrie, for the second reading of the Bill C-31, An Act to amend the Governor General's Act.—(*Honourable Senator Hastings*).

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, here too, Senator Hastings feels that any questions he wants to raise can best be raised in the committee. Therefore, he would have supported this bill's getting second reading now and being referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs as well.

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, I wish to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Nurgitz speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Senator Nurgitz: Honourable senators, in closing the debate I thought I would just quickly respond to three questions that were raised; the first was by Senator Stewart, dealing with the annual adjustment, that is whether the adjustment made for the Governor General is the same adjustment that is made for members of Parliament. The simple answer is that it is almost the same, but under the Parliaments of Canada Act it says that the adjustment is 1 per cent less than the industrial aggregate for the first adjustment year. So a member of Parliament's adjustment is 1 per cent less than the Governor General's would be.

[Senator Macquarrie.]

The next question was raised by Senator LeBlanc, regarding the pension for a retiring Governor General. The Governor General's Act provides a taxable pension equal to one-third of the Governor General's salary, plus supplementary benefits set out in the Supplementary Benefits Act payable immediately upon leaving office. Presently, this would be roughly \$79,000. By comparison, I might point out that our federally-appointed judges receive a pension of two-thirds of their current salary.

Senator Hastings asked a question about what secretarial and support assistance is given to a retiring Governor General. I point out that, pursuant to a 1979 Treasury Board decision, former Governors General receive an annual allowance equal to the budget of an MP's parliamentary office plus 50 per cent, for a total of approximately \$170,000, today. This pays for staff, office space, travel, hospitality and expenses incurred in the discharge of public duties.

The only questions I have not answered are the questions raised by Senator MacDonald on behalf of himself and Senator Frith.

Senator Frith: Let the record show that he did not have any authority to—

Senator Nurgitz: To speak on your behalf?

Senator Frith: Yes. He was not acting on my behalf. He was talking about an event in which we both participated. I spoke for myself.

Senator Doody: Oh, weak friend!

Senator Nurgitz: The Governor General wished Senator MacDonald well and said that the MacDonald rule will still apply next year.

Honourable senators, with that, I conclude my remarks and urge second reading of this bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Nurgitz, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On Question Period:

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, on a point of order, I thank the government leader for giving me a delayed response to a question. He did say there was a press release dealing with the matter of final payments. The press release deals only with the initial payments. I wonder if he would get me the answer to the proper question. I will give him the question later.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Thank you.