Motion in amendment of Senator Perrault negatived on the following division:

YEAS THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Adams LeBlanc Bonnell. Lewis Bosa MacEachen Cools Marchand Corbin Molgat Neiman Davey Frith Olson Gigantès Petten Grafstein Robichaud Graham Stewart Hastings Thériault Hébert Watt-24.

NAYS THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Atkins Lynch-Staunton Balfour Macdonald (Cape Breton) Barootes MacDonald (Halifax) Berntson Macquarrie Bolduc Marshall Buchanan Meighen Carney Molson Chaput-Rolland Murray Cogger Phillips Comeau Poitras Di Nino Rivest Dovle Robertson Forrestall Ross Johnson Rossiter Kelleher Simard Kelly Spivak Keon

ABSTENTIONS THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Stratton

Sylvain-37.

Nil

Kinsella

Lavoie-Roux

[Translation]

MOTION IN AMENDMENT OF SENATOR CORBIN NEGATIVED

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I would like to take this opportunity, not to comment on the decision that the house just made but to try to bring the senators back to their senses, if I may say so.

We may have over-reacted on both sides in what we said and did. We may have over-reacted to the Minister of Finance who wants to control the national debt, and the government supporters too no doubt over-reacted by refusing any compromise to soften the impact of its legislation.

We all heard the representations, especially from the Canadian Federation of Students. We heard a young man from New Brunswick who took a sabbatical year to work full-time for the interests of university students throughout the country. He took a year off from St. Thomas University in Fredericton to spend it in Ottawa. Like most senators, I believe, I was very impressed with his eloquence, his correct reasoning and his appropriate recommendations.

Since we may have over-reacted, let us admit that for the sake of argument, and since we rejected Senator Perrault's amendment just now in that we refused to support as a package the amendments to all the clauses which he presented, I would like us to have a second chance, in the interest of students. For this, I move:

THAT Bill C-76 be amended by deleting clauses 3 and 4 on pages 1, 2, and 3 of the bill.

[English]

• (1540)

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, it is moved by Honourable Senator Corbin, seconded by Honourable Senator Lewis:

THAT Bill C-76 be amended by deleting clauses 3 and 4 at pages 1, 2 and 3.

Is it your pleasure to adopt the motion, honourable senators?

Hon. Noël A. Kinsella: Honourable senators, I should like to speak to the amendment brought forward by the Honourable Senator Corbin. I laud the motivation that brings the amendment forward, but the government is simply facing up to the reality facing it, as the Minister of Finance of the province of New Brunswick yesterday was facing up to the reality facing that province.