

## FISHERIES

### COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO STUDY ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), I move:

That the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987, tabled in the Senate on 30th August, 1988 (Sessional Paper No. 332-1034), and all other matters relating to the Canadian fishing industry, be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.  
Motion agreed to.

● (1530)

## NORDION AND THERATRONICS DIVESTITURE AUTHORIZATION BILL

### THIRD READING

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the third reading of Bill C-13, to authorize the divestiture of Nordion International Inc. and Theratronics International Limited.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

## MUSEUMS BILL

### THIRD READING

**Hon. Brenda M. Robertson** moved the third reading of Bill C-12, respecting museums.

She said: Honourable senators, I understand that Senator Marshall also has a comment or two to make on this bill. However, the committee asked me to make two or three brief comments before passage of this bill.

Bill C-12 proposes to dismantle the Federal Museums Corporation and the National Museum of Canada, and to grant the status of crown corporation to the four museums in the capital region, those being the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Honourable senators, I should like to make two points before I move that Bill C-12 be adopted by this house. First, two native organizations, the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society, have expressed their concerns in a written submission to the Stand-

ing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology regarding the present situation among Indian, Inuit and Métis groups beginning to develop their own museums while being frustrated by a lack of resources to support museum initiatives. They are competing with "long-established institutions for funding as well as the ownership of their own cultural material."

In response to these concerns, I should hope that the expression "the heritage of Canada and all its peoples", described in clause 3 of the bill, be interpreted to reflect their aboriginal heritage and to promote native peoples' involvement.

The second point I wish to make, honourable senators, is with respect to the appointment of the museum directors. The bill does not require that these appointees be Canadian citizens. While we should always look for the best, on behalf of the committee I suggest that the best individuals to maintain and preserve our Canadian heritage should themselves be Canadian citizens.

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, I apologize for the fact that I was not here when the bill was debated. I have a few comments to make with regard to one division of the museum, namely, the Canadian War Museum.

First, I intended, through the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, to have the matter of museums referred to committee because of the sad state of affairs that exists with regard to the Canadian War Museum. This was highlighted—and consequently prompted me to enter the debate—by an article that appeared in *The Ottawa Citizen* yesterday emphasizing the difficulty that the Canadian War Museum is having with suitable facilities and funding, and I think we could add a continuous activity to the committee. The article is dated January 28, 1990, and was written in *The Ottawa Citizen* by David Pugliese. In it he quotes the museum director, Victor Suthren. The matters disclosed should make members of this chamber leery as to the future of Canada's recognition of our war effort and of what our veterans have done to help the future of Canada. It reads in part:

● (1540)

Suthren admits that the museum, an affiliate of the Museum of Civilization, is fighting an uphill battle in trying to get more money. It looks like the situation will only get worse.

The story refers to the fact that some crown surplus stores have more funding and more material to show than the museum, because of the lack of funding in previous years and the lack of space to display. The article goes on:

"It's a sad state of affairs," said Bruce Brittain, president of the 650-member Friends of the Canadian War Museum, a volunteer group that is lobbying the government to increase funding. "The museum staff are working like dogs with what they have but there is only so much they can do."