

Senator Flynn: Then add the words.

Senator MacEachen: Therefore, I believe that the motion in this form is defective and cannot be put.

Senator Flynn: This is childish—

Some Hon. Senators: Oh! Oh!

Senator Flynn: It is childish. The senator is trying to have fun.

Senator MacEachen: No, I am just trying to get Senator Flynn to be competent.

Senator Flynn: This is only a matter of detail. I remember, when I became a lawyer about 50 years ago, that one could arrange to have an action rejected because somebody had forgotten a comma, or something like that. Senator MacEachen sounds exactly like that, himself. I accept, Mr. Speaker, that you include the words "as amended", to please the Leader of the Opposition.

Some Hon. Senators: No! No!

Senator MacEachen: Honourable senators, it is not open to Senator Flynn to do this. The motion has been put in a particular form, and he cannot now amend that motion by saying to the Speaker, in a cosy arrangement, "Just change it to please a childish member of the opposition." The motion is either in order or it is out of order, and I say that it is out of order, that it should not be put in that form, and that it cannot be changed without unanimous consent.

Senator Guay: He will learn.

Senator Flynn: That is completely in error. This is not the House of Commons that Senator MacEachen knew in 1953. This chamber has evolved and has become a civilized place, on occasion.

Hon. Duff Roblin: Honourable senators, I have learned since coming to this chamber that we really do make up our rules as we go along.

Senator Frith: When it suits.

Senator Roblin: When it suits. It has never been clear to me that we have adhered with strict formality to the rules that apply in the other parliamentary chamber across the way. When I first came here, I thought that was a bad thing. I have since come to the conclusion, since our Speaker has his particular role, which is different from that of the Speaker of the House of Commons, that we did get along rather well by being reasonable and sensible in what we do here rather than adhering strictly to the rules that appear in *Beauchesne*.

The other day, for example, my friend, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, moved a motion about the use of television in this chamber. It was obviously a defective motion, because it would have had us do something which we had no intention of doing. So, I suggested to him that that was the case and that he should make a change to the motion by adding some words, which he obligingly did. No one in this chamber objected that that was a heinous offence against the rules and propriety of conduct in the Senate of Canada chamber. We accepted it.

Today we find ourselves in the same situation. I think the same courtesy that we extended to the Leader of the Opposition on that occasion could well be extended on this occasion.

Senator Flynn: I would not mind the Speaker making a ruling on that. We will have someone else move the motion, as amended, and we will try to continue in this fashion until we satisfy the caprices of the Leader of the Opposition, which are, I suggest, completely unreasonable.

Senator MacEachen: Honourable senators, I must say that I am impressed with the comments made by Senator Roblin that one must be reasonable. However, it is difficult to be reasonable in light of the attitude that Senator Flynn took when it was pointed out to him that his motion was defective. He reacted by accusing me—because I had noticed the defect in his motion—of a childish gesture. Then, ignoring all other senators, he asked the Speaker to fix it up. I think that if he requested the consent of all honourable senators to change his motion, he would receive that consent.

Senator Flynn: On a point of privilege, when I suggested to the Chair that the motion could be amended as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, I did not mean to give an order to the Speaker. I said that if His Honour the Speaker finds that the Leader of the Opposition is right in asking that those words be added, then I would accept that. I did not show any contempt for the Senate.

● (1220)

Senator Frith: You used the word "childish".

Senator Flynn: I said that it is childish to have raised this as a serious objection. That is what I said—and I say it again.

Senator MacEachen: I cannot regard the absence of the expression "as amended" from the motion as an insignificant omission, because, had the motion been put as Senator Flynn moved it, and as it was put to the house, and if his motion were carried, then Bill C-22 would not be read—

An Hon. Senator: Exactly.

Senator MacEachen: —because the substantive part would be "that Bill C-22 be not now read a third time," and the rest would be irrelevant, because the amended bill would not be in the motion.

So, I do not think it is childish. If we want to be serious about our work, it would be quite ridiculous to have a motion put asking "that Bill C-22 be not now read a third time" when the motion made by Senator Cogger is that Bill C-22, as amended, be read the third time.

I am rather thick-skinned about comments from Senator Flynn. I am not arguing the fact that he addressed those words to me, but I do not consider that the substance of the argument, or the point, is childish. There is a world of difference between a proposition which states "Bill C-22" and one which states "Bill C-22, as amended." That is what I was drawing to the attention of the Senate, and I would have expected Senator Flynn to have taken a more apologetic attitude in light of his omission.