

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition):** First, he does not have to answer. This is not Question Period. Second, the Speaker himself ruled that the report had been adopted. It is not a decision of our side; nor is it a decision taken on the government side. When Senator Beaudoin rose, the Speaker reminded him that if he wanted to speak, he would need leave because the report had already been adopted.

Therefore, Your Honour, the report has been adopted. Can you clarify that for us?

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I did not rise to ask for leave. The normal procedure is that I put the question; if I do not see anyone standing, I say, "Adoptée, Carried." However, I am sure honourable senators will all agree — and we have always agreed — that if someone stands even after that, they are allowed to speak. I was certainly prepared to allow Senator Beaudoin to speak. Indeed, I asked him if he wished to speak on this motion, at which time I sat down and he rose. I am following our normal practice here, which is that we do not cut off an honourable senator arbitrarily simply because I have called a motion, if someone rises at that point.

• (1530)

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** Your Honour, did you not only call it but declare it adopted?

**The Hon. the Speaker:** I did. However, I have done that on previous occasions, as I think have previous Speakers. If someone rises at that point, he or she will be heard. My view is that if Senator Beaudoin wishes to speak, he is entitled to speak.

**Senator Oliver:** Not without leave.

**Senator Prud'homme:** Honourable senators, I rise on this point.

**Hon. Sharon Carstairs:** I should like to speak on this point as well.

**Hon. William M. Kelly:** Honourable senators, I should like to rise on a very brief point of order.

I take exception to the statement that we are looking at political trickery. I think that is beneath anyone here. There is no trickery. We have a procedural argument. Everyone understands procedural arguments.

I take exception to the reference to political trickery. It is hard to imagine any motive for doing that.

**Senator Carstairs:** Honourable senators, it was my understanding this afternoon that Senator Beaudoin was to speak to this committee report. It was my intention to respond, after hearing his remarks.

I have introduced bills for second reading in the past. I must say, the procedure in this chamber is foreign to me — one

introduces second reading, moves it, adopts it and then speaks to it. Why we do this, I do not comprehend.

In the chamber from which I gained my experience, you would move second reading but certainly never adopt it. Yet, consistently, that is what happens when I stand to speak at second reading. Everyone speaks on it. Therefore, I am assuming that that same procedure is in effect here. I have been waiting to hear from Senator Beaudoin and then I would speak.

[Translation]

**Senator Prud'homme:** Honourable senators, I am one of those people who often find themselves in a situation similar to the one we are seeing today. Since I am pretty far back, by the time you notice I am on my feet, you have practically said the word "carried." I realize that as the Speaker, it is your job to recognize those who wish to speak, and if no one wishes to speak, the motion is carried.

I have noticed that for a long time, both under the speakership of Senator LeBlanc and your own, which have both been excellent, I may say.

[English]

I want to be sure that I am understood. Senator Carstairs is absolutely right. Very often, Your Honour, you do your duty, but you do it too fast. Yesterday, I said that I wanted to speak on this bill and I expected to speak on it last night. Last night I indicated to Senator Graham that I wanted to speak on it. I am sure that Senator Carstairs was of the same feeling. It was quite a surprise to me to see such an important bill passed so suddenly.

I wish to repeat what Senator Corbin said about Senator Beaudoin last night, when I think Senator Beaudoin's dignity was hurt: His committee has done almost 50 per cent of the work of the Senate in the last year and a half.

I am sure he was ready to speak.

**Senator Gigantès:** He was on his feet.

**Senator Prud'homme:** Honourable senators will understand that from where I sit I cannot see everything. I am sure he was ready, so much so that he asked Your Honour, "What is your ruling?" Why would he ask about your ruling, Your Honour, if he had no intention of speaking?

He said that he would abide by what Your Honour said. That means he intended to speak on his own report. He would not have said that if he had no intention of speaking.

[Translation]

My father taught me the rudiments of logic. According to simple logic, it is obvious that he was about to speak. If he does not speak, there are other senators who wish to be recognized, including Senator Carstairs and myself, since I have been on this bill since it was first tabled.