

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SURVIVOR BENEFITS—ANOMALIES IN LEGISLATION—INQUIRY WITHDRAWN

Hon. Jack Marshall rose, pursuant to notice of Thursday, November 19, 1987:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to anomalies in veterans legislation regarding payment of survivor benefits to spouses of deceased prisoners of war.

He said: Honourable senators, in view of the fact that Bill C-100, which has to do with the spouses of deceased prisoners of war, has been introduced, it causes Inquiry No. 8 to be redundant, and I therefore ask that it be withdrawn.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.
Inquiry withdrawn.

ROYAL ASSENT

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE—MOTION WITHDRAWN

On Motion No. 1:

By the Honourable Senator Frith:

That the present formal procedure of Royal Assent be retained and that it be used (a) at the request of the Governor General or of either House of Parliament and (b) at least once a session, for example at the prorogation of a session;

That, in addition to the present practice, a simpler procedure be established based on the following principles: (a) that the procedure involve representation from both the Senate and the House of Commons, (b) that it

be public, and (c) that the declaration of Royal Assent be subsequently reported to both Houses of Parliament; and

That representatives of the Senate meet with representatives of the House of Commons to draft a resolution for a joint Address of both Houses to be presented to Her Excellency the Governor General praying that she approve such changes to the Royal Assent ceremony as described in this motion.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, Motion No. 1, standing in my name, deals with the procedures for Royal Assent.

I had given a speech on this subject under an inquiry some years ago, and this motion deals with the same subject and the views I expressed then. It tries to catch up on some of the developments since then, including the activity of the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders.

The Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate has advised me that the government may be preparing a bill dealing with the subject of Royal Assent. For that reason, although I have my notes ready or, as Senator Muir would say, "I have my music and I am ready to play!", I think a more appropriate concert setting might well be the debate on the bill, if it ever comes to us. For that reason I ask leave to withdraw my motion. I shall make my views known when the bill comes before us, if it ever does.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion withdrawn.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.