

Therefore, in order to expedite that we would not vote against third reading but, rather, if a vote were held, would abstain on the third reading vote.

Motion agreed to and bill, as amended, read third time and passed, on division.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Leaving having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move:

That when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, 6th March, 1990, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

I will explain if senators wish.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Explain, please.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, the adjournment motion for March 6 is predicated on the assumption that Bill C-21 will be dealt with in the House of Commons and perhaps returned to us the following week. We also have five bills in committee in the Senate, three of which have been with us for quite a long while. They were sent to committee prior to the Christmas break. Bill C-16, the Canadian Space Agency bill, is currently being dealt with by the Social Affairs Committee; Bill C-23, the National Energy Board Act, is being dealt with by the Energy Committee; Bill C-28, the Income Tax Act, is being dealt with by the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee. In addition to these three bills, yesterday we sent to committee Bill C-25, the Geneva Conventions Act, and Bill C-38, the Federal Court Act.

In order to make it easier for senators to deal with these bills, we felt that a one-week break would be sufficient for us at the present time. We could come back on March 6 and get to work on this legislation, which, of course, the government is most anxious to receive in the other place.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I understand the position of the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate, whose job, after all, is to get the government's legislation through the Senate as quickly as possible. It is not the job of other senators. Given that fact, his only other basis for adjourning for one week is the possibility of Bill C-21 coming

back to the Senate and the possibility of reports from committees.

As a matter of general principle, I do not feel that it is the duty of senators to organize the affairs of the Senate in such a way as always to be sitting, panting and waiting for the House of Commons to send something to us, or to be here against the possibility that they might. Let us deal with the reality of this particular two weeks.

Bill C-21 will be on the order paper tomorrow in the House of Commons. I agree with Senator Doody that it is hard to predict what the House of Commons will do. The House of Commons will be dealing with the budget tomorrow. There will be an NDP non-confidence motion, as I understand it. On Friday, from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m., they will deal with Bill C-21 on the procedural aspect only, because they will be dealing with another bill after Question Period at twelve o'clock. Therefore, in my respectful submission, there is no possibility that Bill C-21 will be back to us before the following week.

MOTION IN AMENDMENT

Senator Frith: The fact that committees might report is also not a reason for the Senate to be sitting, waiting for the possibility of a committee report. Therefore, it seems to me, in view of the cooperative attention we have given to Bill C-21 and the fulfilment of the undertaking to have it clear the Senate this week, that a much more reasonable adjournment motion would provide not for the 6th but for the 13th of March. I so move, in amendment.

Senator Doody: In light of the comments made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I doubt whether or not he knows of any plans for committee meetings during the next two weeks. As I pointed out earlier, three of these bills have been in committee now for quite a long while. While it is true that meetings have been held, it seems to me that during the next two weeks, if this motion carries—and I suspect that it will—there is ample time for these committees to have additional meetings and deal with these pieces of legislation. I do not intend to tell them how to deal with the legislation. Obviously, they know where I stand on this matter.

However, I do believe that senators generally have an obligation to deal with the legislative matters that are referred to these committees and to deal with them as expeditiously as they can.

Having said that, in the event that Senator Frith's calculations are wrong, and Bill C-21 does find its way back to us while we are away from the chamber, obviously we would have recourse to ask the Speaker to send for us to deal with that bill.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I agree with everything Senator Doody has said. However, I do not subscribe to the view that the Speaker must automatically accept the recom-