

mie des sciences. These three academies had, in 1992, a total membership of 1200 among whom our colleagues, Senators Gérald Beaudoin and Arthur Tremblay.

[English]

Over its 109 years of growth and increasing activity, the society has held to its original objectives of encouraging excellence in learning and research by awarding medals and prizes, and by holding an unbroken series of annual meetings with proceedings recorded in its publications.

In recent years it has expanded its role in several ways: holding conferences in many parts of Canada, commonly in cooperation with other organizations; undertaking various studies into matters of national, and frequently local, importance; and providing advice to governments and other bodies on the issues of the day. Increasingly, the topics addressed cross the boundaries of academic disciplines and examine many facets of complex problems.

Among the current concerns being examined by the society are issues in public health, such as its comprehensive study of AIDS in 1988; the environment and its natural and human dimensions; public understanding of scientific advances and the issues they raise; education of Canada's intellectual resource; the advancement of women in academic and professional life; and the evaluation of the country's research capability and accomplishments.

[Translation]

To study these questions and other subjects, the Society calls upon the knowledge and experience of its members who pledge to provide their services at the time they join the Society. The growth over the last few years has made us more aware of the Society's ability to give the country independent and objective advice, and to help Canada to respond more adequately to the new problems facing us. The government has helped the Society reach its full potential by increasing, in 1989, its annual subsidy and other fundings.

To reach its goals, like similar institutions in other countries, the Society relied on legislation, the *Act to incorporate the Royal Society of Canada*, which received royal assent on May 25th, 1883. The Society considers that this legislation served it well, but today, it needs more leeway to take care of its facilities. This is why we are requested to look at the petition presented to the Senate.

The Royal Society of Canada is asking, in this petition, that the limitation on the value of property that it may hold for its own use be removed, and that certain provisions of its incorporating Act that have served their purpose be repealed.

[English]

The changes proposed in the amending act will provide for section 1 of the original act to be deleted and replaced by a new proposed section 1. Subsection 1 of the new clause provides for the continuation of the society in its present form. Subsection 2 will permit the society to hold real and personal property for its purposes without restriction as to their value.

Clause 2 of the bill deletes sections 5 and 6 of the original act, which concerned the continuation of the original by-laws

and officers of the society as they existed in 1883. As they have realized, the purpose for which they were included at the time is no longer relevant, and it is proposed that they be deleted.

[Translation]

Clause 3 of the bill proposes also that section 8 of the *Act to incorporate the Royal Society of Canada*, which deals with the competency of any of its members to be a witness in any suit in which the Society may be engaged, be repealed since it has also served its purpose.

Honourable senators, I urge you to pass Bill S-7 without delay. Thank you.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I was asked by some individuals about the reasons for this bill and I must say that my first reaction was to say that I support it.

However, at the next sitting of the Senate, I would like to return to what senator Castonguay just said, even if we intend to support the bill. Therefore, I moved that debate be adjourned to allow me to study senator Castonguay's speech.

On the motion of Senator Frith, debate adjourned.

[English]

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON A RENEWED CANADA

STATUS OF REPORT

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, if I may, before we proceed, I am given to understand that our friend, Senator Beaudoin, has a brief report to make to the chamber with regard to the status of the joint committee.

● (1200)

[Translation]

Hon. Gérald-A. Beaudoin: Honourable senators, we intended to appear before the Senate to table the report of the Special Joint Committee on the Government of Canada's proposals for a Renewed Canada. I would simply like to say that negotiations are continuing.

If we are not in time for the adjournment of the Senate, the report will be deposited today with the Clerk of the Senate, as usual.

That is all I had to say. I did not want to start a debate. Negotiations are continuing. If the Senate adjourns before we finish, the report will be tabled later today, according to the Rules of this House.

I am not in a position to discuss the report's contents because negotiations are continuing.

I simply wanted to advise honourable senators that if we do get it on time, that's fine, and if we don't, it will be later today.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): I have a question for Senator Beaudoin, but it is just for further clarification.