

**Senator Leblanc:** Allow me to introduce the fourth bill, then I will be pleased to answer you.

So, I move that this bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday, January 24, 1984.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Senator Asselin:** Before we adopt the motion, honourable senators, I would ask the sponsor of the bill to give us an explanation about the four bills he has just presented for first reading.

**Senator Leblanc:** In three cases, honourable senators, uncles want to marry their niece, for whatever reason. In the other case, an aunt wants to marry her nephew. When this bill comes up for second reading, I will be available to provide satisfactory explanations to all senators, with a view to making those people happy. We thought we would offer them a Christmas gift by presenting the bill for first reading immediately.

**Senator Asselin:** A Christmas gift!  
Motion agreed to.

[English]

#### INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

##### FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE TABLED

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham,** Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, tabled a report approving the budget of the Special Committee on Senate Reform.

(For text of report, see today's Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate.)

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

##### NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEES TO MEET DURING ADJOURNMENTS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government),** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), moved:

That for the duration of the present session and pursuant to rule 76(3), any select committee may meet during an adjournment of the Senate which exceeds a week.

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

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I am disturbed that so many of these motions are made requesting leave. It seems to me that that is an abuse of the process. The reason we require a notice of motion is in order to allow honourable senators to give consideration to the proposal made. I am quite willing to admit that some of these proposals could be handled quite expeditiously as they are not all that difficult to understand. Unless there is a good reason why leave should be sought, we ought to proceed in the normal way, despite the fact that a motion like this is perhaps

[Senator Asselin.]

non-controversial. If there is any good reason why we should seek leave today, I am willing to hear it; otherwise, I suggest that we take this notice of motion and discuss it and vote on it tomorrow.

**Senator Frith:** No problem.

**Hon. John M. Godfrey:** Honourable senators, I thought we had agreed several years ago that when leave was being asked for, some explanation should be given. That does not seem to have been the practice lately.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, in most cases when I ask for leave I say that I am prepared to give an explanation, and I believe I have said that without exception. I agree that that practice has started, and if I have fallen down in not observing it, it is not intentionally because when leave is being asked for it is very definitely in order that an explanation be asked for and given.

● (1420)

The idea has been discussed on and off over the last few months. There is no reason why we should not look at it further to decide whether we want to change this practice of granting permission to sit during an adjournment of the Senate. As Senator Roblin has suggested, we will treat it as a Notice of Motion, and it will appear as a motion tomorrow.

#### BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

##### MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government)** moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to sit while the Senate is sitting today and that rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: Honourable senators, I gave notice of this motion yesterday, when Senator Roblin suggested we consider it today. That is my explanation for asking for leave to bring forward the motion appearing in my name under Motions.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I am beginning to feel rather uncomfortable because every time my honourable friend asks for leave I find it hard to agree with him.

I have a long-standing opinion to the effect that our custom in the Senate to avoid overlapping meetings of committees with sittings of the Senate is good and we should not allow overlapping unless there is some compelling reason.

This is particularly the case today because some of us, at least, want to hear Senator Macdonald's contribution to the Throne Speech debate, which we will be unable to do if this motion is agreed to. Senator Macdonald is, fortunately, one of those men you can rely upon to be brief and to the point. I feel his speech this afternoon will undoubtedly fit that general description; it will not take very long. Therefore, it will not interfere a great deal with the meeting of the committee.