

Senator David: Honourable senators, I do not think there are any extra costs.

Senator Corbin: There are no extra costs for the moment and you do not think there will be a subsequent demand coming from this sub-committee once it has begun its work.

Senator David: Unless it wants to undertake special studies, and as you know, Senator Corbin, in that case, such studies would require prior approval by the Senate.

Senator Corbin: I am asking the question in the context of our study of the current budget of the Senate. You took part in some stages of that study in the Committee on Internal Economy. I just wanted some information so we can take that into account when we prepare the budget of the Senate and its committees.

Senator Molgat: Honourable senators, I would like to ask Senator David a question. From what I understood, those additional senators will be regular members of the committee and will therefore be able to participate in the work of the committee as well as the sub-committee. Am I correct?

Senator David: You have understood the sense of the proposal, Senator Molgat. We do not want to set up another sub-committee or another committee that would be independent from the Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

However, we would like to find members who are willing to serve on the sub-committee. Senator Marshall has a list of about 10 names from which parties will be able to choose members who agree to that. I think it is very important that it be done because, during the last session, there were three volunteers to form a quorum, and usually they were Senator Marshall, who chaired the sub-committee, Senator Bonnell, when he was there and he was there often, and myself.

Sometimes, one among the three of us could not make it and the committee meeting was postponed. The witnesses had to come back later and we had a lot of problems to keep that sub-committee busy.

The idea is to have people who will be at the central committee, if I can say that, but whose particular interest will be with veterans affairs. Therefore, when these people will not show up at the Social Affairs Committee as such, it will not be a big deal.

Senator Molgat: I believe that senator David answered my next question which was precisely that. Do we have a sufficient number of senators who are interested in this issue and who will be present? I am aware of the problems of the sub-committee during the last session. Senator Marshall would come and make a plea to have people there. Do you have a guarantee that there will be a sufficient number of senators?

Senator David: Honourable senators, yes.

On motion of Senator Molgat, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Friday, December 13 at 9 a.m.
