

this commission? Is Mr. Spicer a dictator, or is he under orders from the Prime Minister? Is he consulting with the members of this forum and deciding that three or four of them should go to Tuktoyaktuk to hear the views of these people?

Is there any limit to the expenses that this forum may incur, or do they have an open-ended account? Does the Treasury Board say, "Go and spend the money and we will cover the costs"?

**Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard:** How much are you prepared to spend to save Canada?

**Senator Bonnell:** If it will save Canada, I will invest quite a bit. But if the government could not save Canada, I do not think this forum can do it. I think there are a lot of questions to be answered. Who is running the show? Who is deciding who is to be heard? Will they go out and dictate to the people what they would like to hear? If they do not intend to listen to the people, they should stay home.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, this is not a dialogue between the commission and the people. This is a dialogue that the commission is mandated to encourage among Canadians, so that Canadians themselves will come to understand better the different perspectives and points of view that exist in this country on some very fundamental issues where we believe a consensus is lacking at the present time.

With regard to the commission itself, Mr. Spicer and his colleagues will be holding hearings in various parts of the country and will be encouraging Canadians to come together for the purposes that I have indicated.

With regard to the Aboriginal peoples, I replied in a previous question to Senator Marchand that the only thing that is on hold is a constitutional amendment, and it would indeed be futile to pursue a constitutional amendment under the present circumstances. I have also told Senator Marchand and the Senate a moment ago that we do not preclude the possibility of a royal commission on Aboriginal affairs, and we are moving forward in a broad front as a government regarding land claims and other matters of interest to the aboriginal people. The quotation that the honourable senator refers to is totally out of context and it does not really represent the views that I have just restated in my reply to Senator Marchand.

**Senator Bonnell:** Why do you not put a press release out and say, "I made a mistake. I did not mean that it is futile for the native people to be heard, and I invite the native people to appear before the commission. I am not just another one who is telling the commission whom they should hear and whom they should not hear."

Why don't you, as a member of the government, back off and let the commission decide whom they want to hear. Just do not tell the native people that it is futile for them to be heard.

Another thing: Do you have an Inuit person on that commission to listen to the views of the native people? If there is a native person on that board, he or she certainly would know

how the Indian people relate with other Canadian people. So you should back off and put an apology in the newspaper to make it clear that you never meant to say that their attendance at the hearings of the commission would be futile, and that you are prepared to let the native people be heard.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, it happens that there is a native leader on the Citizens' Forum panel, but again, this is not a dialogue among members of the panel. What we are trying to do is provide an opportunity for ordinary Canadians to express their views as to the future of this country. As for senators and Members of Parliament, they have, as I said to Senator Perrault earlier, a platform of their own from which to speak: That is to say, the Senate or the House of Commons or the provincial legislatures or whatever.

In the case of Senator Bonnell, when the panel or some representatives of it come to Summerside, I am sure that he would have every opportunity to appear there and that might be an occasion that he could use, belatedly, to express his views on the fixed link.

## COPYRIGHT ACT

### IMPLEMENTATION OF SECOND PHASE—EDUCATION EXEMPTIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Lorna Marsden:** The Honourable Flora MacDonald, the then Minister of Communications, in speaking to us about the copyright bill, gave us her assurance that the education exemptions which were being discussed, and which she said were already drafted, would be brought in. That is three years ago. In the meantime, because the copyright bill was passed on the understanding that those amendments would be brought in, all educational institutions, as I have said before many times in this chamber, are really suffering from the significant limitations put on them. We were assured once again that phase two of the copyright amendments would be brought in this year. They have not been brought in. In fact, in correspondence and telephone calls over the last three weeks, I have heard many different things:

● (1700)

My question is to the Leader of the Government. I ask if he would please inform this chamber if he has any sure knowledge on this question. First of all, as background, I have received a number of letters, especially from universities and colleges, who were really feeling the cost of having to deal with those provisions of the Copyright Act which, as you know, provide no exemption for legitimate educational uses, or even illegitimate ones, for that matter. There is a rumour that phase two will be broken into two parts, that whatever is to be in phase two may come in small bites. I would like to know whether that is true or not. There is a rumour, a very widespread one, subsequent to meetings held in the recent past, that the minister is no longer entertaining the education exemptions to which he had already committed himself in writing in letters to members of the educational community. There is a rumour that while those education exemptions may still come in, there may be costs attached to them so they will