

oped in recognition of the need to maintain a high level of safety of human life in the handling, stocking and transporting of the large number of freight containers employed in international transport.

Bill C-21 provides for the Canadian government to implement the provisions of the International Convention for Safe Containers in Canada. The convention came into effect in 1977 following its ratification by the first 10 countries, and it is expected to be fully implemented on September 6, 1982. As honourable senators are aware, the convention sets minimum standards for safety approval and subsequent periodic examination of international cargo containers used in international transport.

These containers provide a more effective means of transporting freight. There are various kinds in use, ranging from the simple box with doors on one end to specialized containers with facilities for freezing or heating the freight so carried. They have made possible the transportation of cargo with a minimum of handling and, consequently, at a lower cost. Canada needs to ratify the convention for two reasons: first, adherence to the convention will provide a degree of safety required in the container industry and ensure uniform application of national laws concerning the safe usage of freight containers in international transport; secondly, the failure to do so would have the effect of disrupting the flow of Canadian containerized goods to and from the many countries which have ratified the convention.

• (2138)

Honourable senators, this bill should receive our approval. Since the previous Senate bill with the same title received favourable consideration in this chamber and since our Standing Committee on Transport and Communications examined two of these previous bills, and especially Bill S-5 in great detail, and since the House of Commons Transport Committee considered Bill C-76, I did not think it would be necessary to send this bill to any committee.

However, I understand that some observations have been made to the Chairman of our Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, not regarding the substance of the bill but rather the form of it. It could therefore be that the chairman will wish to express an opinion on these matters.

**Hon. G. I. Smith:** Honourable senators, it is correct that since our last session I did receive some comments with reference to this bill. The comments were not concerned with the substance, as Honourable Senator Macdonald has correctly pointed out, but rather had to do with technical matters relating to the drafting of the bill.

Before expressing any opinion or giving any suggestions to honourable senators on whether this bill should be referred to committee in respect of these matters, I should like to have an opportunity to discuss the questions with the vice-chairman of the committee, the Honourable Senator Langlois. Accordingly, I ask leave of the Senate to adjourn this debate so that I may take advantage of Senator Langlois' knowledge of these matters before speaking further to them.

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

On motion of Senator Smith (Colchester), debate adjourned.

## LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CONSTITUTION—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Lamontagne, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Frith:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs be authorized to consider and report upon constitutional provisions regarding individual and collective rights and upon the future role and composition of the Canadian Senate and alternative constitutional arrangements compatible with true federalism;

That the membership of the committee be increased to thirty members and that Rule 67(1)(j) be suspended in relation to membership of the committee;

That the committee be empowered to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purposes of its examination and consideration of such legislation and other matters as may be referred to it; and

That the committee have power to sit during adjournments of the Senate; and

On the motion in amendment thereto of the Honourable Senator Flynn, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Tremblay, that the first paragraph of the motion be amended by striking out all of the words after the word "upon" in the second line and substituting the following therefor:—

"the matter of constitutional reform with special attention being given to the question of the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments and to constitutional provisions regarding individual and collective rights".—(*Honourable Senator Asselin*).

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** Honourable senators, I think you have had enough speeches tonight from both sides of the chamber so I ask that this item be stood until tomorrow.

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Order stands.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### ADDRESS IN REPLY ADOPTED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Rousseau, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hays, P.C., for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to His Speech at the opening of the Session.—(*Honourable Senator Petten*).