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Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament

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EVIDENCE

Thursday, September 29, 2011

—
Co-Chairs

Mr. Royal Galipeau
Senator Marie-Paule Poulin

Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament

Thursday, September 29, 2011

• (1215)

[Translation]

The Joint Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Honourable senators and members,

[English]

we can now proceed with the election of the joint chair for the Senate.

Are there any nominations?

[Translation]

Senator Nicole Eaton (Ontario, CPC): I nominate my colleague Senator Marie-Paule Poulin.

[English]

Mr. Ted Hsu (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.): I'd like to nominate Royal Galipeau.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): We're not there yet.

Are there any other nominations for the Senate co-chair?

Is it the pleasure of this committee to adopt this motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Senator Poulin is elected Senate co-chair of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Senator Marie-Paule Poulin (Northern Ontario, Lib.): I hope to do you justice.

[Translation]

Thank you very much.

[English]

The Joint Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Alexandre Roger): We can now proceed with the election of the joint chair for the House of Commons.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, the candidate must belong to the governing party. Are there any nominations?

Yes, Mr. Hsu.

Mr. Ted Hsu: It's my pleasure to nominate Mr. Royal Galipeau.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Mr. Galipeau has been nominated by Mr. Hsu.

Are there other nominations?

[Translation]

Mr. José Nunez-Melo (Laval, NDP): I nominate Carol Hughes.

Mrs. Carol Hughes (Algoma—Manitoulin—Kapusking, NDP): No, you can't do that because it has to be a member of the government. The rest of us come afterwards.

[English]

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Are there any other nominations?

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt this motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Mr. Galipeau is officially elected co-chair of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Royal Galipeau (Ottawa—Orléans, CPC): It wasn't this easy in Orleans.

[English]

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): With the committee's consent, I will now proceed with the election of two vice-chairs for this committee. The candidate of the first vice-chair must belong to the official opposition. Are there any nominations?

[Translation]

Mr. José Nunez-Melo: I would like to nominate Carol Hughes.

[English]

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Ms. Hughes has been proposed as the first vice-chair of the committee. Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): I duly declare Ms. Hughes elected first vice-chair of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament. Congratulations.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): We will now proceed with the election of the second vice-chair. This time the candidate shall be the member of the opposition party other than the official opposition. Are there any nominations?

Yes, Mr. Hsu.

Mr. Ted Hsu: I would like to nominate Ms. Carolyn Bennett, in absentia.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Ms. Carolyn Bennett is nominated in absentia. Are there other nominations?

Is it the pleasure of this committee to adopt the motion?

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): I duly declare Ms. Bennett elected, in absentia, second vice-chair of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament.

Congratulations.

I will now invite both co-chairs to take their seats.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau (Ottawa—Orléans, CPC)): Is there a motion for impeachment yet?

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin (North Ontario, Lib.)): Honourable colleagues, members of the Senate and the House of Commons, I want to welcome you to the first organization meeting of the Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Dear colleagues, I want to thank you for the confidence you have shown us today. I don't think this meeting will be very long. We will mainly be going over routine motions.

[English]

We thank you very much for the confidence you gave us today. I think it's actually quite representative of the fact that this committee works in a non-partisan manner that a member of the government party proposed the name of my colleague, my old friend Marie Poulin, and that a member of the opposition was gracious enough to propose my name. So thank you very much.

We're going to proceed with the routine motions.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The first motion on the table is one for the analyst services. The motion is that the committee retain, as needed and at the discretion of the joint chairs, the services of one or more analysts from the Library of Parliament to assist in its work. Do I have a mover?

It is moved by Senator Eaton.

(Motion agreed to)

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We now invite the analysts to join us because they too were elected.

The second motion we are moving is about the time for opening remarks and the questioning of witnesses.

[English]

What is being suggested, if I can find a mover, is that witnesses appearing before the committee be given ten minutes to make their opening statement and that during the questioning of witnesses the

time allocated to each questioner be five minutes. Do I have a mover?

Madam Carol Hughes is moving the motion.

(Motion agreed to)

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The third motion is about the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure. The motion reads as follows:

That the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be composed of the joint chairs, the vice-chairs, and three (3) other members of the committee representing, from the Senate, the Conservative Party, and from the House of Commons, the Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party, to be designated after the usual consultations; and that the subcommittee be empowered to make decisions on behalf of the committee with respect to its agenda, to invite witnesses, and to schedule hearings.

• (1220)

[English]

Do I have a mover?

Madam Hughes is moving the motion.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I recognize the intent that the drafters wrote in this, but in terms of just practice and the fact that we don't really wear partisan hats here, I would rather that where it says "the Conservative Party" it would say "the government party", *le parti ministériel*, and where it says "the New Democratic Party", it would say "the official opposition party", *le parti de l'opposition officielle*. This way it becomes a template for any situation and it doesn't have the same political flavour.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Any other comments?

Senator Eaton.

Senator Nicole Eaton: How often does the subcommittee meet? It seems that we could dispense with "that the subcommittee be empowered to make decisions on behalf of the committee", that you could just have these subcommittee meetings.

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): The meetings are held very seldom. However, there are times when it is necessary to have this structure in place.

Senator Nicole Eaton: It is not usual.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Actually, even this committee does not meet very often. However, it is important to have a subcommittee because certain decisions need to be made sometimes. Without a subcommittee, it is as if we were giving that power to the staff, and I don't think we want to do that.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Senator Rivard, go ahead.

Senator Michel Rivard (Les Laurentides, CPC): I am wondering whether it is appropriate to change the wording. Do other committees have subcommittees whose names refer to the party in power?

If they do, I support this motion, but if we are setting a precedent...

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): The Standing Committee on Official Languages has the same thing. I have to admit that I asked for that, but the members did agree.

Senator Michel Rivard: So let's continue with your good idea.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Mrs. Hughes, you wanted to say something.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: I support your suggestion. "Conservative Party" appears in two places. I fully agree that we should change that.

To get back to Senator Eaton's question, all the other committees we sit on have a steering committee where orders of the day can be discussed. Following that discussion, the agenda is submitted to the main committee. As Mr. Galipeau said.... I was here during the last Parliament, and I don't think that the subcommittee held any meetings....

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I don't remember that it did. In fact, no meetings have ever been held.

Senator Nicole Eaton: It's what we call a "steering committee" in English. It's a type of subcommittee. It is made up of three people and focuses mainly on the agenda and similar issues. The steering committee makes no decisions on behalf of the committee.

[*English*]

To make decisions on behalf of the committee—

[*Translation*]

If it were a matter of preparing the agenda, or setting business or travel terms, and then making a recommendation to the main committee, I would understand. It is the wording that's bothersome. The motion does not talk about a steering committee or an executive committee. It does not say that members must submit recommendations to the main committee afterwards.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Senator Eaton, the motion before us is the same as the one the committee approved during the 40th Parliament.

•(1225)

Senator Nicole Eaton: I feel that it does not mean anything; it is not an explanation. I don't mean to slow us down, but I think the motion is poorly worded. If we are talking about a steering committee or an executive committee, the motion should say so.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Actually, I have already moved an amendment. With the committee's consent, we could probably ask the joint clerks and the analysts to consider your comments and reword the motion for our next meeting. I suggest that we only adopt today's motion once you are satisfied. Is that okay?

Senator Nicole Eaton: Thank you.

Mr. Joint Chair, allow me to make a comment. I find the issue raised by my colleague interesting. She is bringing to light the differences between the traditions of Senate committees and those of House of Commons committees. It's really interesting: the Senate was supposedly created to provide sober second thought, and my colleague Senator Eaton is providing sober second thought on how the joint committee works.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We will set motion 3 aside for now and ask our joint clerks and analysts to provide us with a reworded motion taking into consideration the comments exchanged on the subject.

[*English*]

We have co-chairs. We have more power now without this. Look what you've done.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): I think we should be a travelling committee, don't you?

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I travel to Orleans. That's how I got back here.

A voice: Libraries of the world.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): This is on the record. I think we should go and see how the Library of Parliament works in England, as a committee—or Washington.

Okay. Let's get back to serious business.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I'd like to visit two very important libraries, one on Orleans Boulevard and one on Innes Road in Orleans.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Monsieur Richards.

Mr. Blake Richards (Wild Rose, CPC): Thank you. We've dealt with the wording you talked about then.

I see another concern here as well, beyond the wording of Conservative, as opposed to government, and parties, as opposed to opposition.

I don't think that how this is now structured for the subcommittee actually reflects what you see in the composition of the House of Commons and the Senate. It now has the opposition outnumbering the government members on the committee, which I don't think is appropriate. It should reflect the reality of the makeup of the chambers.

So I suggest we correct that by dropping the one additional member of the New Democratic Party, or in this case the official opposition, as we're going to word it. I think that would only be fair in ensuring that we're mirroring the makeup of the chambers. So I would make the motion that we drop that one member from the subcommittee.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): That's probably a reasonable comment. The way it's drafted now represents the makeup of the House at the beginning of the 40th Parliament, but the makeup of both houses at the beginning of the 41st Parliament is somewhat different.

Thank you, Mr. Richards.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): So we will ask that the drafting incorporate the three comments.

[*Translation*]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Mrs. Hughes, you have the floor.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: The next thing you will tell me is that you want to remove one of our representatives from the subcommittee. I will oppose that suggestion. We will have three members representing each side: three members for the Senate, three members for the Conservatives and three members for the NDP. There will be the chair, the vice-chair and the vice-chairs of the two other parties. I think equality would be lost if someone were removed. The vice-chair, Mr. Galipeau, is a member of the government.

• (1230)

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I am not a vice-chair; I am a joint chair.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: Okay.

Senator Nicole Eaton: The two vice-chairs are members of the opposition.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: So we will have you, Mrs. Poulin, myself, a member of the Liberal Party...

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We will also have Ms. Bennett, who is a vice-chair.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: In addition, we will have three members of the government from the House and another three from the Senate. Is that what the current wording indicates?

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I invite the joint clerk to comment.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): You were right in what you said in the beginning. After that, we'd be talking about a member of the government from the Senate, a member of the government from the House of Commons and a member of the official opposition from the House of Commons. That is how the motion is currently worded, without taking into consideration the amendments Mr. Richards suggested.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: But he wants to remove one person and thereby remove the opposition completely.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Does it not say it's three more?

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): That is three: a member of the government from the Senate, a member of the government from the House of Commons and a member of the official opposition from the House of Commons. That's three.

Senator Nicole Eaton: Two vice-chairs and one of the joint chairs are members of the opposition. That's already three. Altogether, there are four.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We shouldn't have an imbalance in the opposition's favour. The subcommittee's makeup is not supposed to reflect the makeup of the 40th Parliament, but rather the reality of the 41st Parliament.

[English]

I propose that we just leave this aside right now and let the clerks deal with these comments and come back to us at the next meeting. We can then move ahead with motion four.

Is there agreement?

Mr. Blake Richards: Just for clarification, what you're suggesting is that based on the comments that have been made, something will

be drafted and brought back for our consideration, which could be amended at that time as well?

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Yes.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): The committee is the master.

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Mr. Pilon, go ahead.

Mr. François Pilon (Laval—Les Îles, NDP): I want to see if I've understood correctly. The joint clerk said this committee has five members: the chair, the joint chair, a Conservative member, an opposition member...

A voice: It has seven members.

Mr. François Pilon: Oh, they're seven!

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): They are indeed supposed to be seven. There are two joint chairs, two vice-chairs and three other people.

Do you agree with the clerk team reviewing the motion and getting back to us with a reworded text? We can then discuss it again and even amend the new motion if needed.

Do you agree with that, Mrs. Hughes? Great.

We now go on to the fourth motion, on meeting without a quorum:

That the quorum be fixed at six (6) members, provided that each house is represented, and that a member from the opposition and that a member from the government are present whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken; and that the joint chairs be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and have that evidence published when a quorum is not present, provided that at least three (3) members are present, including a member from the opposition and a member from the government, and provided that each house is represented.

• (1235)

[English]

Do I have a mover? Senator Rivard.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Motion five is that the joint clerks of the committee be authorized to distribute to the members of the committee only documents that are available in both official languages.

Is there a mover? Madame Hughes.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The next motion is that the committee publish its proceedings.

Do I have a mover? Mr. Zimmer.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Mr. Hsu.

Mr. Ted Hsu: Does this mean that the committee or subcommittees never meet in camera?

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We do meet in camera for budget considerations.

Mr. Ted Hsu: To me, in motion six, shouldn't we put in something else?

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): We're at number six.

Mr. Ted Hsu: Number six doesn't exclude in camera meetings from the fact that everything is published? I'm not familiar with the language, but....

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Senator Eaton, go ahead.

[English]

Senator Nicole Eaton: We have in camera meetings to discuss and go over the reports before they go out. The steering committee meets in camera and those proceedings are not published. Again, it depends on whether it is the committee of the whole or the steering committee. If we're going through a report with the clerks and the researchers, sometimes those meetings are in camera.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Mr. Hillyer.

Mr. Jim Hillyer (Lethbridge, CPC): Do we need to add in motion six "except for those meetings that are in camera", or "the part of the meeting that is in camera", or something like that?

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Let's ask the clerk what the tradition is.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): The difference here is, again, between the Senate and the House of Commons. I and my co-clerk have discussed this. The reason this was changed is that in the Senate this is how it's worded. I've changed this and I took out the part about in camera. When we have an in camera meeting, there is nothing that's published. There's only a copy of the blues that's kept in the co-clerk's office, under lock and key, and nothing goes out to the web.

Even if we write it or don't write it here, it doesn't change the fact that it's going to be that way. There's no mechanism for it to be published if it is in camera.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Mr. Zimmer had a question.

Mr. Bob Zimmer (Prince George—Peace River, CPC): We were going to reflect on whether that prior motion could be reworded, but if you have already gone through that—it sounds like you have—I guess we are okay if you're okay. But it seems to be a little bit too open in what it doesn't explain.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Madam Hughes.

[Translation]

Mrs. Carol Hughes: Just quickly, I would like to specify that, when we meet in camera, what we discuss never goes out. The minutes of the proceedings of those meetings are not published, regardless of the organization, governmental or not. We are now of course talking only about committee documents that will be published.

[English]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): We are at the service of the committee members. If the committee would be more

comfortable with more extensive wording, we can always bring an amendment to the motion. The clerks would be comfortable—

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): There is a question from Mr. Zimmer.

Mr. Bob Zimmer: I have a question for the clerk. What was the rationale in removing the in camera wording?

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): That is the wording for the Senate; that was the only rationale.

An amendment to this motion could be that in camera meetings will not be published. It's as simple as that, and that is the way we'll write it. We could propose to change it and adopt it at the committee.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Mr. Zimmer, would you feel more comfortable if it were—

Mr. Bob Zimmer: Yes, I think we all would feel a bit more comfortable with that. To me, then it's clearly stated versus being assumed.

• (1240)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): There seems to be a consensus on the amendment.

Mr. Zimmer is moving the amendment.

Mr. Bob Zimmer: Yes, I am, actually.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): I am moving you along, am I not?

With the amendment, *monsieur le cogreffier*, could you reread the new motion so we know what we're voting on?

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Alexandre Roger): The motion would be that the committee publish its proceedings and that in camera proceedings not be published.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Now to motion number seven.

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We're now getting to the best part.

[English]

This motion is about the authority to commit funds and certify accounts.

[Translation]

That either joint chair or, in accordance with the direction of the joint chairs, either joint clerk be authorized to approve payment of expenditures of the committee.

[English]

Is there a mover of the motion?

[Translation]

So, Mrs. Hughes has moved this motion.

Does anyone want to debate it?

Mrs. Hughes, do want to discuss your motion?

Mrs. Carol Hughes: I just want to make sure of something. It says:

[English]

“That either joint chair or, in accordance with...”. Should that be “that either joint chair, in accordance with”, and the word “or” shouldn’t be there?

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): No, I think it’s fine the way it is.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: Usually, the committee gives the instructions. Also, since the joint chair obtains instructions from the House in advance, he can make the decision. Now, it just says that you can make the decision without the committee’s approval.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): You are asked to authorize joint chairs to approve expenditures. You know that out-of-pocket expenses are involved. Last year’s budget for this committee was about \$10,000. Unless I’m mistaken, the Senate covered 30% and the House covered 70% of that total. So we’re talking about 70% of \$10,000. The joint chairs would approve the invoices, like the one for your meal today. That’s what we’re talking about.

We are asking you to authorize us to do that, so that we don’t have to call a meeting to approve a \$50 invoice. In our absence, we authorize the joint clerks to take care of that.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): In that case, Mr. Pittman can call me to ask if he can sign the meal invoice, and I would say yes. After all, this is about ensuring smooth operation.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: I just wanted that clarified. In some committees, we are asked to approve meals. Especially if it’s included in the agenda, it will say that meals have to be approved in advance.

That’s all. I just wanted to know.

[English]

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Mr. Hillyer.

Mr. Jim Hillyer: I’m wondering if the concern is not that the clerk can authorize a bill for lunch, because motion nine already approves working meals. The concern is approving things that aren’t within a budget that the committee has approved already.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): You mean like that trip to Paris she wants.

Mr. Jim Hillyer: I know it sounds ridiculous, but maybe you want to add “provided that it’s within the budget that has been approved by the committee”, or more effective wording.

Is that what your concern is, Carol?

Mrs. Carol Hughes: That is exactly right, because on this one it already approves some of those expenses.

Mr. Jim Hillyer: We want to guard against clerks—

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I want to give further clarification, if I may. Any expenses over \$20,000 have to be approved by this committee, but sometimes there are expenses for witnesses. We invite witnesses to come, they incur expenses, and we have to pay them.

•(1245)

Senator Nicole Eaton: We trust the budget to our co-presidents and the clerks, so let’s move on.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Mr. Zimmer.

Mr. Bob Zimmer: There was obviously something there before that seemed to function quite well. Why are we changing it now?

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): We’re not changing it. We’re just bringing it back, because this committee doesn’t take direction from the committee of the 40th Parliament. This committee is master of its own destiny. We proposed similar or exact motions at the beginning of this same committee in the 40th Parliament, but they’re not the master of the 41st Parliament; we’re the master of this committee in the 41st Parliament.

Mr. Bob Zimmer: Was question (b) similar to the one for the 40th Parliament?

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Yes, it’s identical.

Mr. Bob Zimmer: That’s good.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Are there any other comments on motion seven?

(Motion agreed to)

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The eighth motion is about travel, accommodation and living expenses of witnesses:

That, at the discretion of the joint chairs, the committee may reimburse reasonable travelling and living expenses for one witness from any one organization and that payment will take place upon application, but that the joint chairs be authorized to approve expenses for a second witness should there be exceptional circumstances.

[English]

Do I have a mover? Senator Eaton.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): Motion nine is that the joint clerks of the committee be authorized to make the necessary arrangements to provide working meals for the committee and its subcommittees.

It is moved by Senator Eaton.

(Motion agreed to)

[Translation]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The tenth motion is about access to in camera meetings:

That each member of the committee be allowed to have staff present at in camera meetings, unless there is a decision for a particular meeting to exclude all staff.

[English]

Do I have a mover? Monsieur Pilon.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Now to notice of motion: That 48 hours notice be required for any substantive motion to be considered by the committee, unless the substantive motion relates directly to business then under consideration, and that the notice of motion be filed with the joint clerks of the committee and distributed to members in both official languages.

Do I have a mover? Mr. Zimmer.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): I think you have in front of you the draft report, dated today, Thursday, September 29. Therefore, the motion would be that the committee adopt its first report and present it to the Senate.

It's the whole thing: the first part is the order of reference, then additional motions that are required, and then the expense report, which is required by the Senate. You can see it's big bucks.

Do I have a mover so that it can be discussed after people have read it?

Do you want me to read it officially? I can read it.

An hon. member: Dispense.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Dispense? Okay.

Just for background information, the clerk for the Senate can give you the tradition of the Senate, in terms of orders of reference, just so that we all know why this is necessary for the Senate at this time.

• (1250)

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Okay.

For our purposes at the Senate, with regard to any studies that a committee wishes to undertake, we actually have to have the permission of the chamber. It's not like at the House of Commons, where a committee can choose to study a subject matter on its own. We actually have to get the authorization of the chamber to undertake a study.

[*Translation*]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr. Pilon, go ahead.

Mr. François Pilon: There is the date issue, right in the beginning.

The Joint Clerk (Mr. Kevin Pittman): Yes, that's duly noted.

[*English*]

There was a misspelling, September, in French.

[*Translation*]

Thank you, sir.

[*English*]

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): All in favour?

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): The clerk would like to inform us also that it will be reported to the House of Commons.

It needs a motion. Mr. Zimmer is moving that it be reported to the House of Commons.

(Motion agreed to)

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I'd like a motion that we self-destruct until our next meeting.

[*Translation*]

It's over.

Mrs. Carol Hughes: So we won't discuss possible studies until the next meeting, right?

Okay.

The Joint Chair (Senator Marie-Paule Poulin): Yes, that's when we'll discuss that.

The Joint Chair (Mr. Royal Galipeau): I now declare the meeting adjourned.

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