



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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OFFICIAL REPORT  
(HANSARD)

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

The Honourable NOËL A. KINSELLA  
Speaker

**Some Hon. Senators:** Yea.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Those opposed to this motion will signify by saying “nay.”

**Some Hon. Senators:** Nay.

**Some Hon. Senators:** On division.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed; carried on division?

**Hon. Senators:** Yes.

(Motion agreed to, on division.)

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. James S. Cowan (Leader of the Opposition):** Colleagues, I abstained from voting today because, though I strongly agreed and argued as early as last May that sanctions needed to be imposed on our three colleagues, I do not agree that sanctions should be imposed while ignoring, for pure political reasons, due process and the principles of fundamental justice.

Consequently, I refuse to participate in what I consider to be a highly questionable and perhaps even illegitimate process.

**Hon. George J. Furey:** I would like to inform this chamber of my reason for abstaining from these three votes.

As the deputy chair and a member of the Internal Economy Committee, the committee which presented the original reports on Senator Brazeau, Senator Duffy and Senator Wallin, I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to vote on this government motion at this time.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Dennis Dawson:** Honourable senators, I do not want to repeat my leader’s comments, but I must say that in my 15 years in Parliament — seven years in the other place and eight years here — I have never abstained from voting. However, I believe that the process made us choose between senators who misbehaved and a government that is seeking revenge.

Had I voted, I would have given credence to the process. I completely understand my colleagues on both sides who voted,

but personally I think that this was a travesty of justice. I find it extremely unfortunate that there was no incremental sanction system and that three senators who committed different offences received the same penalty and did not have the opportunity to properly defend themselves. There is also the fact that we do not know the end date of these sanctions. This made me even more uncomfortable about voting on these motions. I therefore abstained.

[*English*]

**Hon. Percy E. Downe:** Like Senator Furey, I’m a member of the Internal Economy Committee as well, the committee that heard these very serious allegations against colleagues of ours. We took, in my opinion, the appropriate action: investigation, hired outside auditors and, when they reported the results, the committee recommended the proper course, which was a referral to the proper authority.

That process is under way. It’s my view that that should continue. What happened here today I want no part of, because I want that justice system to carry through as it should and find out if these allegations are true, if charges are going to be laid, and then the Senate can consider the results at that time.

**Hon. Larry W. Campbell:** I rise to advise you that I did not vote for this because I also sit on Internal Economy and also sit on the subcommittee of audit with Senator Marshall and Senator Comeau.

Everything I have to say about this matter is contained in our report, which we submitted to Internal Economy and, in turn, to this chamber.

**Hon. Elizabeth Hubley:** Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to explain my reason for abstaining from the vote this evening.

I share many of the comments that my colleague has mentioned this evening, but I feel that the process is terribly flawed and I have grave concerns about how this, going forward, is going to impact on a future criminal trial.

For that reason, I chose to abstain this evening.

(The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.)