



DEBATES OF THE SENATE

1st SESSION



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SENATE MODERNIZATION

Fourth Report of Special Committee—
Debate Continued

Question by:

The Honourable Diane Bellemare

Thursday, February 2, 2017

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

SENATE MODERNIZATION

FOURTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—
DEBATE CONTINUED

Hon. Diane Bellemare (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate): I think your amendment makes sense, but I have a question for you. Did you think about creating categories? I understand that what is being sought is unanimous consent in the case of someone who suddenly rises and asks for a bill to pass. At the same time, I am entirely sympathetic to what Senator Mercer said. We would not want to be at the mercy of someone who withholds consent just because they are in a bad mood that day.

• (1450)

I think different senators have different intentions. For instance, some prefer to express themselves through inquiries.

As it stands now, inquiries always come last. Often it is hard for a senator to rise at the end of a session on a Tuesday or Thursday and speak to the inquiry, because we all sense that everyone is eager to leave. However, if someone is prepared to discuss their inquiry at the last minute, should they not be allowed to do so?

I think it is important to inform the chamber ahead of time if we want to hold a vote. When it comes to inquiries, I think it would be unfair to require unanimous consent.

The Hon. the Speaker: Senator Bellemare, do you have a question?

Senator Bellemare: Would you be open to discussing it?

[*English*]

Senator Tannas: I think it is a good point and maybe one where an amendment would be in order, a subamendment or, in fact, another amendment. Thank you.
