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CRIMINAL CODE

**Bill to Amend—Message from Commons—Concurrence in
and Disagreement with Senate Amendments—Motion for
Non-insistence Upon Senate Amendments—
Order Stands**

Intervention by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, May 8, 2008

THE SENATE

Thursday, May 8, 2008

CRIMINAL CODE

BILL TO AMEND—MESSAGE FROM
COMMONS—CONCURRENCE IN AND DISAGREEMENT
WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS—MOTION FOR
NON-INSISTENCE UPON SENATE AMENDMENTS—
ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Oliver, seconded by the Honourable Senator Tkachuk:

That the Senate do not insist on its amendments 1 and 3 to Bill C-13, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (criminal procedure, language of the accused, sentencing and other amendments) to which the House of Commons has disagreed; and

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint that House accordingly.

Hon. Gerald J. Comeau (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I wish to pose a question to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in regard to Bill C-13. My understanding is that this bill provides for enhanced services for

the language of an accused individual. I know that both the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I have a great deal of interest on the subject of the official languages of Canada.

Might I ask my honourable colleague when we can expect to hear from the other side on this most important subject?

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): The honourable senator is quite right; the subject of official language minority rights is certainly an issue about which I feel strongly. Bill C-13 addresses an important issue.

Six amendments were proposed in committee. Four amendments were retained on the government side and two amendments were rejected. The two amendments that were rejected would have enhanced the situation of official language minorities and we are now considering the implications of that.

Senator Chaput, in her intervention two days ago, raised some important questions for people to consider and honourable senators require time to reflect on those issues. This is what we are considering at the moment.

I am sure Senator Comeau will appreciate that on complex issues, the amount of time required is an essential element. We have the right to take the appropriate amount of time to consider all aspects of this very important legislation.

Order stands.
