



CANADA

Debates of the Senate

3rd SESSION

• 40th PARLIAMENT

• VOLUME 147

• NUMBER 62

SUPREME COURT ACT

Bill to Amend—Second Reading—
Debate Continued

Statements by:

The Honourable Michael A. Meighen
The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

SUPREME COURT ACT

BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING—
DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Tardif, seconded by the Honourable Senator Rivest, for the second reading of Bill C-232, An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act (understanding the official languages).

Hon. Michael A. Meighen: Honourable senators, this highly contentious, interesting and important bill continues to evolve. For example, I am reminded of the compromise resolution passed this summer by the Canadian Bar Association, which may be a way forward.

I have been preparing notes to speak on this matter, but they are not complete. I understand that Senators MacDonald and Comeau also wish to intervene in the debate. Given that the bill sits at day 14, I ask the indulgence of honourable senators to adjourn the debate in my name for the balance of my time.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a question for honourable Senators Meighen and Comeau.

I am not inclined to accept this adjournment of the debate because the Senate has been studying Bill C-232 since April 13, 2010, or for 203 days. The last Conservative senator to speak to this bill did so on June 22, 2010, four months ago.

I dare say that during these four months, senators have had enough time to prepare their notes and scrutinize the bill. I believe it is high time to move on and put a stop to these delaying tactics.

Let us not forget that this bill was adopted by the majority of the elected members in the other place.

[*English*]

Are Conservative senators now obstructing the will of the elected majority?

[*Translation*]

Can Senator Comeau guarantee that the Conservative senators will actually speak when we return the week of November 15?

Senator Meighen: Honourable senators, this is the first time I have asked for a postponement. I do not think this is a delaying tactic in this case. It is just an attempt to find the best solution to a tricky problem. I can assure you, honourable senators, that I will take part in the debate in a few weeks.

(On motion of Senator Meighen, debate adjourned, on division.)
