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SUPREME COURT ACT

Bill to Amend—Second Reading of Bill C-232—
Debate Continued

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, November 25, 2010

THE SENATE

Thursday, November 25, 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. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I would like to ask a question of my colleague, the Honourable Senator Comeau.

The honourable senator has assured this chamber on several occasions that there are senators on his side who wish to speak to Bill C-232. Almost a month ago, I raised the question as to when someone might speak on the honourable senator's side and no one has yet spoken. No Conservative senator has spoken on this issue in the last month even though the bill has been before us for 226 days.

Can the honourable senator tell me when the Conservative senators will stop delaying this bill, a bill which has been adopted by the elected majority in the other place?

Hon. Gerald J. Comeau (Deputy Leader of the Government):

I am happy to answer this question. I believe Senator MacDonald will speak to this item next week. Senator Meighen will then speak to it within the next two weeks. Senator Champagne has spoken to it. Senator Angus has indicated that he will speak to it within the next two weeks. I will speak to it within the next three weeks. We do have a great number of senators who wish to address this item, and I presume there will be others who intend to speak to this bill as well.

Given the far-reaching effects of this bill, which I will not get into now, there will be plenty of movement on it.

Senator Tardif: As I said, I received that commitment from the honourable senator and from Senator Meighen almost a month ago. Am I given to understand that there is a commitment for some senators to speak to this next week and the week after?

Senator Comeau: If we were not stuck with all the private members' bills that seem to come out of the woodwork every day in this place, we might be able to get to some of these bills in a more timely fashion. If the honourable senator looks at the Order Paper, she will see the huge proliferation of bills that seem to be coming from the honourable senator's side.
