

Senator Perrault: I am not certain yet whether the pamphlet issued in support of our constitutional proposals was published by the federal government or by the Province of Ontario and Premier William Davis. I have yet to see a copy of it, and thus be able to ascertain who was responsible for the alleged publication. I must, therefore, withhold comment on that.

THE CONSTITUTION

STATUS OF REPORT OF LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, in the absence of Senator Goldenberg I have a question for Senator Lamontagne, the chairman of the subcommittee of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Could the committee issue its report as soon as possible, because there are certainly some parts of it that are very relevant to the debate we are beginning now? I was wondering if Senator Lamontagne would think it irregular if I were to refer in general terms to some of the conclusions of this report, which, as I say, are relevant to the resolution before the Senate.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne: I am sure it is not according to our rules for me to answer that at this stage because, as Senator Flynn suggested, I was just the chairman of a subcommittee, which has already reported. Therefore, the subcommittee is not in existence any more.

Senator Asselin: You are the sponsor.

Senator Lamontagne: I am sure Senator Flynn is aware of the fact that Senator Goldenberg could not be here today. However, I believe, he intends to have a meeting of the full committee when the Senate adjourns tomorrow.

Senator Flynn: Tomorrow afternoon?

Senator Lamontagne: That is what he told me last week.

[Translation]

Hon. Martial Asselin: A supplementary question for Senator Lamontagne. Will the report be tabled in the Senate also be put before the joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons? Does Senator Lamontagne intend to appear before the Senate committee to defend it or would he rather become co-chairman of the committee?

Senator Lamontagne: I think this is all hypothetical.

[English]

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

CONFISCATION OF THE *LADY ANNE*

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I have a question to address to the Leader of the Government in the Senate which, I suspect, he will require to take as notice in order to answer it, since I cannot give him any more particulars than I am about to give him now.

[Senator Muir.]

Is it correct that a ship of some kind named the *Lady Anne* was confiscated by some federal authorities for some infraction of our customs law, or similar laws, and was then sold at auction after such confiscation, according to the provisions of the law?

● (1530)

Was it sold at auction? If so, to whom was it sold? Was it delivered to the person who made the highest bid, whatever that bid was, for the amount bid? Was any effort made to obtain from the purchaser a higher amount than the amount bid after the auction had been completed? Could the honourable minister provide any other relevant factors which may relate to this particular matter? I believe this incident occurred in Nova Scotia sometime this month.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the question will be taken as notice because of its detailed nature.

ENERGY

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY—OIL RESERVES

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I should like to reply to a question asked by Senator Roblin during Question Period on October 23 concerning a study being carried out by the International Energy Agency of the international oil supply situation.

I should like to quote from my earlier answer to this inquiry from Senator Roblin when I informed him that the IEA study is not being carried out as a result of the disruption in supplies caused by the Iran-Iraq conflict. In my reply on October 21 I said:

—the IEA is not carrying out a special study of the supply situation as a result of the Iran-Iraq conflict. A test of the IEA oil sharing system was initiated on October 1, and of course Canada is participating fully in this study. This test had been planned for many months prior to the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the fact that it is proceeding now is entirely coincidental.

I should like to repeat my earlier assurances that the IEA does not envisage a serious international supply shortage that would require invoking the sharing provisions of the international agreement. This is largely due to the fact that inventories at the international level are in an extremely favourable position, and that some producing nations have agreed to increase production to offset the disruption of supplies from Iran and Iraq.

As I offered to do in my earlier response, I would be pleased to provide information from the International Energy Agency study to senators when that study has been completed.