

**Senator Flynn:** No; I mean since the minister came to the Senate.

**Senator Olson:** Well, honourable senators, I cannot give you the precise date, but I can tell you that I did use those initials long before I was in the ministry.

**Senator Flynn:** Oh no.

**Hon. Richard A. Donahoe:** Honourable senators, as a supplementary, can the minister tell us whether the Prime Minister places the same value upon a person who is a member of this house and one who is a member of the House of Commons, so that he would believe that they should be designated in the same manner and appear to be equal?

**Senator Olson:** My honourable friend can address his question to the Prime Minister. What he is seeking is the Prime Minister's opinion on a matter that is not really related to government business. I suggest that he write him a letter.

**Senator Donahoe:** It would be a good opportunity, but it is very difficult to get the Prime Minister to stay still on the same question for very long.

### THE CONSTITUTION

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—  
NEGOTIATIONS RE PROCEDURE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Hon. Peter Bosa:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Deputy Leader of the Government. Is he in a position to inform the members of this chamber as to whether, at the meeting that took place this afternoon in the other place among the house leaders, any progress was made towards relieving the procedural impasse regarding the Constitution?

**An Hon. Senator:** You are late.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I was in the gallery in the other place when the first meeting was called, and I was there when the bells rang. Mr. Pinard, Mr. Baker and Mr. Knowles all said that they were making real progress and that they were going to meet again this evening. The Leader of the Government has been in communication with them this evening, so he can tell us whether they are continuing to make progress.

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, a few minutes ago I had a telephone call from the Honourable Yvon Pinard, and we discussed the situation. I can report that there were friendly and constructive meetings held today. No final arrangements have been made, but the talks have been useful and constructive.

**Senator Asselin:** It is a retreat.

### TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND—NORTH SYDNEY TO ARGENTIA FERRY  
SERVICE

**Hon. C. William Doody:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. During the past

few days in Newfoundland there has been quite a lot of concern expressed by various groups, such as the St. John's Tourist Commission, the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and others, over the report that the east coast ferry service running from North Sydney to Argentia will be discontinued after this year. Were this to happen, it would indeed be a tragic occurrence. Can the minister put those fears to rest and say that it is not so?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the question must be taken as notice, as I do not have the information immediately to hand.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE SINAI—CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN U.N. PEACEKEEPING  
FORCE

**Hon. Jack Austin:** Honourable senators, can the Leader of the Government advise the Senate whether the government knows if one of the purposes of the visit of Secretary of State Haig to the Middle East was to discuss the establishment of a peacekeeping force in the Middle East to be located in the Sinai? Has the Government of Canada in any way been approached by the United Nations, the United States, Israel or Egypt to contribute a presence to a possible peacekeeping force in the Sinai?

• (2030)

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, we are aware that discussions are taking place between the parties to the Camp David Accords concerning the proposed multinational peacekeeping force for the Sinai.

As we understand it, no firm decisions on the organization and functions of the force have yet been taken. The force is still in the planning stage. It will only begin to function in April 1982, when Israel is scheduled to complete its evacuation of the Sinai.

I can report that Canada has not been involved in discussions concerning planning for the force. This is the responsibility of the United States, Israel and Egypt. As yet, Canada has not been requested to participate in the force. If and when we do receive such a request, it will be given careful consideration.

As for the other information requested by Senator Austin with respect to the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State, General Haig, to the Middle East, that will be taken as notice and, hopefully, there will be a reply available later this week.

POLAND—THREAT OF RUSSIAN INVASION

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** Is the Leader of the Government in a position to report to the Senate any up-to-date information concerning the situation in Poland? Would he also address himself to the question: What is the possibility of the Soviet army invading Poland?

Would he also tell this Chamber whether anything has transpired as a result of the meeting between officials of the