

THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 2, 1980

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate of a change in the list of members appointed to serve on the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

(For text of message, see today's *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate*.)

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate of changes in the list of members appointed to serve on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

(For text of message, see today's *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate*.)

PRIVATE BILLS

MONTILAC LTD. AND SOCAM LTD.—COMMONS MESSAGE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons returning Bill S-13, to revive Montilac Ltd. and Socam Ltd., and acquainting the Senate that they had passed the bill without amendment.

TREMUS INDUSTRIES LIMITED—COMMONS MESSAGE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons returning Bill S-14, to revive Tremus Industries Limited, and acquainting the Senate that they had passed the bill without amendment.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—COMMONS MESSAGE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, a message has been received from the House of Commons in the following words:

Tuesday, December 2, 1980

Ordered,—That the Order of Reference creating the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada be amended by deleting the words "December 9, 1980" and substituting therefor the words "February 6, 1981"; and

That a Message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof and to invite them to join with this House in the aforementioned action.

Attest:

C. B. Koester

The Clerk of the House of Commons.

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—ORDER OF REFERENCE AMENDED

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Roblin, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e):

That the Senate join with the House of Commons in amending the Order of Reference creating the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada by deleting the words "December 9, 1980" and substituting therefor the words "February 6, 1981"; and

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

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

• (2005)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, it seems that the mover does not wish to speak in introduction of this motion, but I should like to make some comments about it. I am not at all critical of the mover's silence, because the motion is self-explanatory and does not require further explanation. However, it might be useful for the house to know that at this afternoon's meeting of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution a resolution was carried to the effect that when this motion becomes the approved statement of both houses of Parliament, the timing in respect of the presentation of briefs and the receipt of applications from interested parties to appear as witnesses will be reconsidered.

As honourable senators are aware, the deadlines have now passed and people cannot at this point submit new briefs or ask to appear as witnesses. It is, I think, useful for honourable senators to know that consideration will be given to extending those deadlines. The matter has been referred to the steering