

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 15, 1981

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

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 with a change 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*.)

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) tabled:

Report of the Postmaster General respecting Olympic coins for the period ended September 30, 1980, pursuant to sections 17(2) and 17(3) of the *Olympic (1976) Act*, as amended by Chapter 68, Statutes of Canada, 1974-75-76.

Order in Council P.C. 1980-3502, dated December 18, 1980, amending Part I of the Schedule to the *Hazardous Products Act*, pursuant to section 8(3) of the said Act, Chapter H-3, R.S.C., 1970.

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, the 20th of January, 1981, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, we have no objection because it was expected, obviously. But could the Deputy Leader of the Government tell us whether we will receive any legislation? What will be before the Senate next week? We had a very interesting week with the famous speech that Senator Frith gave yesterday, but I doubt that another speech like it justifies our coming back next week.

Senator Frith: I agree about the justification. However, according to the information we have so far, we cannot expect any legislation from the other place next week. That means we

shall pursue the debate on the matters now before us and which, I believe, are important enough to justify our presence here next week—although I must express my regrets regarding my own attendance next week. I am acting as counsel in an appeal before the Ontario Court of Appeal and I shall have to appear before it next week. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is deeply disappointed to hear that.

Senator Flynn: That is reason enough for us not to be here next week. It seems to me that in the circumstances the deputy leader should amend his motion to say that we will not come back before the 27th.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is the honourable senator moving an amendment?

Senator Flynn: No; it is not for me to say whether he must stay away or not.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

OIL—REDUCTION IN EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I should like to continue the discussion initiated yesterday between myself and the Honourable Minister of State for Economic Development in connection with the oil industry. Yesterday we had an exchange about the large oil companies followed by an exchange about the smaller Canadian oil companies and the government's policy with respect to them. I now ask my honourable friend if he is acquainted with the latest report of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, which reviewed the situation that is facing their industry, and whether he has any statement to make with respect to it.

• (1410)

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I do not have a statement, as such, to make about it. I know there is some apprehension concerning the exploratory and development program later on in 1981, but we have been attempting to obtain some better statistics on, or make an analysis of, the activity that is now going on, and indeed there is some disagreement from people who are directly involved in it as to the number of rigs operating and how long they will be operating.