

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 20, 1981

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

Prayers.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGES IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that messages had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate with 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.)

DOCUMENTS TABLED

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

Public Accounts of Canada, Volumes I, II and III, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 55(1) of the *Financial Administration Act*, Chapter F-10, R.S.C., 1970.

Quinquennial actuarial report on the state of the Regular Force Death Benefit Account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund as at December 31, 1975, pursuant to section 40 of the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act*, Chapter C-9, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of the Mississauga Railway Accident Inquiry (Commissioner, The Honourable Mr. Justice Samuel G. M. Grange), dated December 1980.

STATE IMMUNITY BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) presented Bill S-19, to provide for State Immunity in Canadian Courts.

Bill read first time.

Senator Perrault moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next, January 22, 1981.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

INDUSTRY

INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AND MANPOWER RETRAINING PROGRAM

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development. I am particularly interested in the recently announced program which is designed to promote industrial restructuring and manpower retraining, since there is a tremendous provincial involvement in it. Could the minister tell us what discussions were held and in what detail between the Government of Canada and the provinces in terms of the allocation of this amount of \$350 million—that is, as to where and how it is to be spent?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, a similar question was asked in the other place, and the minister responsible, the Honourable Herb Gray, replied that there were a number of discussions with, for example, the automotive industry and others prior to that, although he did not deal specifically with the so-called involvement of the provinces. This is not intended to be a cost-shared program. The \$350 million that is involved is a 100 per cent commitment by the federal government. I have a copy here of the announcement which, I am sure, I do not need to refer to, because it seems to me the honourable senator also has it in front of him.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I am very pleased to hear about the interest the Honourable Herb Gray is showing in the problems of the automotive industry and the fact that he is consulting with the people involved. It is certainly a very touching comment, but it really has very little to do with the unemployment problems and the retraining programs that we in the Atlantic provinces have, particularly in Newfoundland, the part of the country that I represent.

Could the minister specifically tell the Senate what discussions have been had, in terms of retraining programs in the Atlantic provinces, between the Minister of Manpower in Newfoundland, and perhaps Nova Scotia and the other provinces, in terms of the \$350 million program?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I am a little surprised that my honourable friend has no interest in the unemployment problems in the automotive industry. That, of course, is not an attitude that can be taken by the government of the whole country. I know that the honourable senator has asked more specifically as to what has happened to the Atlantic provinces, but if he will read the document that I think he has