

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 21, 1981

The Senate met at 2 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:

Report on the administration of Allowances for Blind Persons in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 12 of the *Blind Persons Act*, Chapter B-7, R.S.C., 1970.

Report on the administration of Allowances for Disabled Persons in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 12 of the *Disabled Persons Act*, Chapter D-6, R.S.C., 1970.

• (1400)

### INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE BUDGETS TABLED

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, tabled reports approving the budget and supplementary budgets of the following committees:

Banking, Trade and Commerce; National Finance; and Transport and Communications.

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

### ENERGY

#### GOVERNMENT POLICY—MODIFIED MOTION TO REFER SUBJECT MATTER OF INQUIRY TO BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and pursuant to rule 23, I would modify my motion

which appears as Order No. 7 on the Orders of the Day to read as follows:

That the subject-matter of the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Argue, P.C., which appeared on the Orders of the Day on November 20, 1980, be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

Honourable senators will see that, as it now stands, my motion refers to the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Argue which is "presently on the Orders of the Day." The debate on Senator Argue's inquiry was concluded last evening, with the result that it is no longer on the Orders of the Day. Therefore, in consequence, I am requesting leave of the Senate to make this technical change in my own motion.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

## QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### CANADIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

#### RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. After hearing this morning the scathing criticisms of the government by various women's groups in this country concerning the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, I am wondering whether the Leader of the Government can tell us what the government proposes to do to restore some credibility to the body known as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the question will be taken as notice. I do not have before me the text of any detailed criticism of the minister or his policies by recognized groups interested in the extension of human rights. Perhaps those comments have been made, but I do not have the material in front of me. I can only say that under the auspices of this and previous Liberal governments, enormous advances have been made in respect of the status of women in this country.

Senator Nurgitz: As a supplementary, may I ask the Leader of the Government if he can advise the house as to whether, in light of Doris Anderson's resignation, a more pliable or agree-