

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 29, 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 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 messages, see today's Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate.)

DOCUMENTS TABLED

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

Agreement between Canada and Portugal on Social Security, done at Toronto, December 15, 1980, together with Order in Council P.C. 1981-78, dated January 15, 1981, approving same.

Report of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 5 of the *Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Act*, Chapter E-6, R.S.C., 1970.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Monday, February 9, 1981, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

He said: Honourable senators, for the benefit of senators who might not have been in the chamber yesterday when the Acting Leader of the Opposition asked about our business for the next couple of weeks, this motion is being proposed today because the other place has advised us that we cannot expect any business from them next week. As I mentioned yesterday, a quick perusal of our order paper indicates that there is not likely to be enough work to keep us fully occupied for three days next week.

For those two reasons, plus the fact that the following week promises to be busy, since the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution will likely have reported by Friday, February 6,

we are proposing that we not sit next week, but that we resume early the following week, at 8 o'clock in the evening of Monday, February 9.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, there is little I can add to the statement made by my honourable friend, except to say that I agree with him that the work of the Senate is in good shape. We are up to date on all our pressing undertakings, and I agree that it would be appropriate for us to adjourn in the fashion he suggested.

I do not know whether I should get into a discussion with him as to the likelihood of the joint committee's reporting by February 6. There have been suggestions that that date is not practicable. However, leaving that to one side, I would say that we would be glad to support his proposal.

Motion agreed to.

● (1410)

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING ADJOURNMENTS OF SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government), with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(i), moved:

That the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders have power to sit during adjournments of the Senate.

He said: Honourable senators, before the motion authorizing the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders to sit during adjournments of the Senate is passed, may I, in order to keep you fully informed of the consequences of the adjournment motion we have just passed, advise you of the various committee meetings that I have been informed are scheduled for next week? They are as follows: the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications, and the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

The Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada has within its terms of reference now the power to sit while the Senate is adjourned, so there is no problem in that respect. The Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments also has the power to sit during adjournments of the Senate, so there is no problem there either. Whether it will or will not sit, I am not aware. I understand that the meeting of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications was to be routine in nature—I do not say that in any deprecatory way—and would not require the attendance