

Senator the Ea security ang on June 4, 1980, concerning accommodation in Block and the presence of House of Commons offices in that building.

**Sen printed Flynn:** The senator is not here, so the reply can be

*(The answer follows:)*

Public Works was advised by the Sergeant-at-Arms the Honourable Don Johnston was assigned space in East Block under the authority of Madam Speaker.

As a consequence of the partial occupancy of space by the House of Commons, the security services normal to a construction site were no longer considered adequate by the Sergeant-at-Arms and he undertook to provide the necessary services of the House of Commons security staff.

### THE CABINET

#### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SENATE

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, on April 15, the Leader of the Opposition asked a question concerning ministerial responsibility.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** That will be a long reply. It can be printed.

**Senator Perrault:** Thank you.

*(The answer follows:)*

Senator Argue is responsible to Parliament for the Canadian Wheat Board and Senator Olson is responsible to Parliament for the Economic Development portfolio and the Northern Pipeline Agency. Since both of these portfolios cover quite a wide range of areas, it is not possible to strictly define the exact responsibility of each minister within an extremely narrow area. Outside of the areas for which each of my colleagues represent through their portfolios, each of us does his best to represent and be responsible for this particular region, as do all honourable senators.

### THE CONSTITUTION

#### ASPECTS OF SENATE STUDY

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition on June 11 concerning the discussion of immigration, cultural policy and social affairs as part of constitutional reform.

Immigration, cultural policy and social affairs are subjects of ongoing discussion at the federal-provincial level. It was agreed, however, by both provinces and the federal government that these subjects were not priorities for discussion during the September First Ministers' Conference. Therefore, these subjects will be topics of discussion at some future time.

Honourable senators are aware that the government has expressed its view that there should be conferences to discuss constitutional matters, particularly over the next two years.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### CONVERSION OF U.S. ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS—POTENTIAL INCREASE IN AIR POLLUTION

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by Senator Sherwood on June 26 concerning the potential increase in air pollution from the conversion of U.S. electricity generating stations.

*(The answer follows:)*

At a meeting between United States and Canadian officials on February 29, just prior to the legislation being introduced into the Congress, strong Canadian concerns were expressed over the fact that the coal conversion program would aggravate the already serious problem of acid rain. These concerns were reiterated by the Minister of the Environment in April at a meeting with Mr. Costle, Administrator of EPA, and Mr. Andrus, Secretary of Interior. The bill which was passed recently by only the U.S. Senate, specifically exempts the converting plants from the stringent new source performance standards of the U.S. Clean Air Act. The plants will be controlled to the extent required for existing facilities. Canada would have preferred to see a bill which required the application of best available control technology. The bill does include limited provision for grants to help defray the capital costs of pollution control equipment including coal washing facilities.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

#### ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS—SALARIES

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Muir on June 27 concerning the salaries of Order in Council appointees.

**Hon. Robert Muir:** Put it on the record; that will be satisfactory.

*(The answer follows:)*

The Minister of Finance undertook on June 27, 1980, when it came to his attention that this information on salary ranges had not been included in the lists, to ensure that in future when these salary ranges are established as the result of a current review they will be included as part of the information.

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### SPACE RESEARCH CORPORATION

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** On June 27 Senator Macquarrie asked a question concerning the purchase of Space Research Corporation by the national government.

*(The answer follows:)*