

[Translation]

### THE CONSTITUTION

#### ENFORCEMENT OF SEPTEMBER DEADLINE

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. In view of the fact that the position of Mr. Claude Ryan, Leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, is similar to that adopted by five provincial premiers concerning the ultimate date in September to report substantial, perhaps even final, progress on the items on the agenda, as stated by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, could the Leader of the Government ask the Prime Minister whether he is still inflexible with respect to this ultimate date in September to obtain a final consensus concerning the items on the proposed agenda?

• (1415)

[English]

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, inquiries will go forward on the point made by the Leader of the Opposition. The statement made yesterday by the Minister of Finance was to the effect that there has been no decision on whether the September 12 deadline will be strictly enforced. Agreement on all 12 topics of discussion has not been reached. Indeed, he would offer no comment, and that must also be my decision.

### THE ECONOMY

#### ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** Honourable senators, I wish to reply to a question asked by Senator Roblin on June 10, concerning the government's intention to introduce legislation to authorize the small business development bond program.

I am pleased to inform the Senate that my colleague the Minister of Finance intends very shortly to announce guidelines which will remove any confusion which may exist among small businessmen concerning the operation of this program. I can confirm that it is definitely the intention of the government to proceed with legislation in this area in the near future, and the assurance of the honourable senator that his colleagues in the other place will co-operate to facilitate passage of this measure is much appreciated. This co-operation will ensure that an important program to assist the key small business sector of the economy will proceed without undue delay.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, on a point of privilege, I really cannot allow my honourable friend to put such an outrageous interpretation on my remarks or to put such words in my mouth. If he will kindly read to the Senate what I said, I will be content to stand on that; but to have him put the interpretation he has just placed on the words I used is really quite out of order.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, I will withdraw that part of the reply that refers to the honourable senator's

[Senator Perrault.]

assurance. Perhaps I am at fault for putting that interpretation on what he said. So I withdraw that part of the comment.

**Senator Roblin:** I should hope so.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

#### SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO TAIWAN

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** Honourable senators, I have a reply to a question that was asked by Senator Muir yesterday as to whether negotiations are under way with Taiwan for the sale of Candu reactors. I can tell the honourable senator that no discussions are being held or contemplated with the Government of Taiwan concerning the sale of Candu reactors. The honourable senator may be aware that no such discussions have been held with the Government of Taiwan since Canada announced recognition of mainland China. There is no immediate prospect of a change in this situation. This is due to the fact that Canada does not recognize Taiwan's claim to be the government of all of China, thereby precluding the government-to-government agreements that are necessary in the field of nuclear sales.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### STATEMENT TO PRESS BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS

**Hon. Heath Macquarrie:** Honourable senators, if that is the last of the delayed answers, I should like to rise to point out that on May 14 I asked a question about the alleged utterances of Ambassador Dupuy who, in my judgment, made imputations against the former government which were not appropriate from any ambassador of this country.

• (1420)

I asked at the time this matter was to be looked into whether or not the ambassador did make those statements. If he did, it strikes me that he cast implications and aspersions upon the then government; but if he did not make them, I am casting imputations upon him. I think that in the virtue and value of the proper decorum of Canada's representatives abroad, this matter should have been dealt with. An answer should have been given in this chamber as to whether or not this distinguished ambassador made those comments and cast those reflections upon a former government and, as it turns out, on a former minister who happens to be a member of this chamber, Senator Asselin.

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, as yet no reply has been received from the office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I understand that they are in the process of attempting to obtain a copy of the speech or the alleged remarks, and that information will be brought before the Senate as quickly as possible. A further inquiry will go forward this afternoon.