

Senator Grosart: No.

Senator Petten: I beg to differ. It certainly has.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Could the honourable senator give us an indication of why the meeting is being held? What is the purpose of the meeting?

Senator Grosart: I think probably I can help. I believe it is connected, of course, with the importance of the passage of supply.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. William J. Petten: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 16, 1980, at 11:00 in the forenoon.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

RECONSTITUTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON OFF-TRACK BETTING

Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud: Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate. About a year and a half or two years ago the then Minister of Agriculture for Canada requested a committee of the Senate to make an in-depth study of off-track betting. A subcommittee was then formed under the distinguished chairmanship of Senator Buckwold and the work was started, but it was interrupted because of certain political events that took place. I am wondering if the Leader of the Government would inquire of the Minister of Agriculture if it is still his wish to have that study made, and if the subcommittee of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on off-track betting will be reconstituted.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, let me say at the outset that I appreciated having notice of this question given to my office this morning. I do not have a definite and final answer as to the view of the minister with respect to the possibility of the Senate assisting his thinking by reconstituting the Subcommittee on Off-track Betting.

Senator Flynn: Very well said.

Senator Perrault: That is a personal view, so I wouldn't bet on it. The minister has indicated that he is examining and pressing various initiatives that would assist the industry and which are within the present legislative mandate governing pari-mutuel betting. Whether or not these initiatives are such

that they will make unnecessary the reconstitution of that subcommittee is yet to be determined. In the ultimate, that would be a matter for the Senate to decide.

Senator McElman: All bets are off.

ENERGY

ATLANTIC REGION—LOCATION OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TERMINAL

Hon. Richard A. Donahoe: Honourable senators, my question is for the Minister of State for Economic Development. Can the minister tell us whether or not a decision has been taken on the location of the liquefied natural gas terminal currently being proposed by Petro-Canada for a site in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Quebec.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I shall have to take the question as notice.

DOMESTIC OIL PRICING—IMPACT OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF OIL IMPORTED FROM SAUDI-ARABIA

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I should like to pose a question to the Minister of State for Economic Development. It may be that I shall not get as good an answer as I should get, but I would ask the minister whether he can provide this chamber with a calculation of the impact on the deficit in the Oil Import Compensation Program of the increase of \$2 per barrel in the price of Saudi-Arabian oil announced yesterday.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): If the honourable senator is asking, as I think he is, for a fairly detailed projection of the economic and financial consequences of that per-barrel increase, I shall have to take the question as notice. Certainly, in general terms, it is a fact that the compensation payments become a heavier burden on the federal treasury every time the international price of oil goes up.

Senator Muir: A supplementary: Is it the expectation of the honourable minister and his government that this increase will set off another wave of increases by the OPEC nations? Is he willing to suggest that that might or might not happen?

Senator Olson: You are asking for an opinion rather than fact, and I should be very careful about—

Senator Muir: I have great respect for your opinion.

Senator Olson: I am grateful for that. My opinion—and, indeed, my hope—is that it will not happen. The honourable senator will realize that Saudi-Arabia has for several months maintained a price lower than the so-called world price or, indeed, the average price of the other OPEC countries. We certainly hope that this latest increase does not promote or trigger increases by other members of OPEC. If it does, it means that they would increase their prices proportionately.