

QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—
GOVERNMENT'S POSITION RESPECTING AMENDMENTS

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have been told that after yesterday's vote in the House of Commons, the Minister of Justice stated that no amendments from the Senate would be supported and that the Senate was only given the choice of adopting or rejecting the constitutional resolution as it stood.

I should like to know whether it is really the government's position, that we have been asked merely to ratify the decision made yesterday in the other place.

[English]

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the Leader of the Opposition has been a member of this assembly for a considerable period of time. He is well aware that, if an honourable senator moves an amendment and his motion is seconded in the chamber, and the motion is supported by a majority, then that amendment goes forward.

I hardly think I should reply to a question based upon a statement purportedly made by the Minister of Justice and perhaps quoted out of context.

Senator Flynn: I did not mention the Minister of Justice. I am glad the Leader of the Government has identified him.

Senator Perrault: You did mention him.

Senator Flynn: No, I did not.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Yes, you did.

Senator Flynn: I simply said "a minister." But even if I did mention the Minister of Justice, you have confirmed it. At any rate, what I really want to know is whether the government's position is that it will resist any amendment moved in this place, regardless of its origin in the house.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, the debate will begin this afternoon. The persuasive oratory of the Leader of the Opposition may bring about all sorts of wondrous things.

Senator Flynn: It will certainly be the first time.

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—DATE
OF TERMINATION OF DEBATE

Hon. Ernest C. Manning: Honourable senators, I wish to direct a question to the Leader of the Government. At this stage of the proceedings is he in a position to give us information on a possible termination date? Those of us who are commuters face problems of transportation arrangements and other attendant difficulties. Personally, I express the hope that the termination of the debate will not be until next week, but perhaps the leader can give us further information on that now.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I can report that on a most amicable and co-operative basis we have had a number of discussions with the Leader of the Opposition and it has been agreed that the debate shall commence this afternoon and that perhaps at some point in the debate, either today or tomorrow, we may discuss the possibility of a fixed date for both the termination of the debate itself and for the vote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANITOBA—WESTERN DEVELOPMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, may I again direct the attention of the honourable minister in charge of economic development to the Western Development Fund—or should it more properly be called the "vanishing fund"?

The minister suggested that I look in more detail at page 20 of the budget. I have already done that on a number of occasions. I want him to tell me if my arithmetic is correct. According to my understanding, the expenditure from this fund in 1981-82 will be \$148 million instead of the \$350 million previously forecast.

As I understand the breakdown of that \$148 million: \$81 million or \$82 million will be expended in respect of farm compensation; \$6 million or \$7 million is to pay for certain tax incentives available to the railways—if "incentives" is still a proper word to use in this legislature; and the remaining \$60 million is slated for rapid transit in Vancouver. Perhaps the minister could enlighten me as to whether that breakdown is indeed correct.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I think it is correct.

Senator Roblin: Does that mean to say, then, that there are no other plans to use any moneys from this fund for economic development or as seed money in western Canada in the coming fiscal year?

Senator Olson: No, it does not mean that at all, honourable senators, because, if you read the rest of the second paragraph on page 20, you will find very clearly what the allocation in the budget from the Western Development Fund will be not only for 1982-83 but for the following years. For 1982-83 there is an amount of \$182 million. The amount allocated for 1983-84 is \$375 million, and further amounts of \$415 million and \$400 million have been allocated for 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively.

• (1410)

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I am sure that my honourable friend is well aware that he has not answered my question. I did not ask him what allocations appeared in this paper for coming fiscal years, and which are probably subject to the same degree of change as we have experienced so far for the current fiscal year. What I asked him was whether there was any money in this fund that remains to be allocated for