

**Senator Godfrey:** Then who was the non-bureaucrat you were speaking to?

### THE CONSTITUTION

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—POSITION OF  
GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I should like to reply to a question asked by the Honourable Senator Asselin on November 26 concerning a letter delivered to the Prime Minister.

On Wednesday, November 25, 1981, Mr. Normand, Deputy Minister of Interprovincial Affairs for Quebec, did indeed hand-deliver the letter from Mr. Lévesque to Mr. Trudeau regarding a possible veto for Quebec. Apparently that information was not conveyed to the office of the Minister of Justice. I said that I would clarify the situation.

The Prime Minister has prepared an answer which is to be sent today, December 1, 1981. As soon as the letter is made public, the text of it will be made available to honourable senators.

[Later:]

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, I believe there has been general distribution of the text of the letter from the Prime Minister of Canada to the Premier of Quebec in response to Mr. Lévesque's letter of November 25, 1981.

If any honourable senator has not received a copy, please inform my office and a copy will be provided.

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** Is there a French version of the letter?

**Senator Perrault:** Yes, honourable senators.

### PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Hon. John M. Godfrey:** Honourable senators, I would like to respond to a question addressed to me by Senator Flynn in my capacity as Joint Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

On November 10, 1981, Senator Flynn questioned the Leader of the Government about the authority of the government to spend money on a publicity campaign in Quebec aimed at selling the Charter of Rights or the constitutional package to that province. Senator Flynn's question of me was:

Would the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments look into the question of whether the government has proper authority to spend that money under these circumstances?

I replied:

I am not sure whether that committee has the right to look into that type of matter, but I will certainly make inquiries.

I referred the matter to Mr. Graham Eglinton, legal counsel to the committee. His opinion was that the matter "doesn't seem to have anything to do with the Standing Joint

Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments," with which I agree.

In my opinion, therefore, the committee does not have the authority to look into this matter, as it is beyond its terms of reference.

• (1510)

### THE ESTIMATES

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF NATIONAL FINANCE  
COMMITTEE ON SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C)—ORDER  
STANDS

On the Order:

Consideration of the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance on the Supplementary Estimates (C) laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1982.—(*Honourable Senator Everett*).

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, Senator Everett has been delayed by bad weather or other problems related to travel. For that reason I ask that this order stand until later this day.

Order stands.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 8.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

### THE CONSTITUTION

MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—  
MOTION RESPECTING DISPOSITION AGREED TO

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government),** pursuant to notice of November 26, 1981, moved:

That the motion of the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada, notice of which was given by the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., on November 19, 1981, be disposed of as follows:

1. On the first sitting day following the final disposition by the House of Commons of the motion for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen moved by the Minister of Justice on November 20, 1981, the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., shall move the motion of which he gave notice on November 19, 1981, with such modifications as may be necessary to make it conform to the resolution adopted by the House of Commons; and

2. At six o'clock p.m. on the second sitting day after the day the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., has moved the motion referred to in paragraph 1, the