

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 12, 1980

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGES IN COMMONS
MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that messages had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that the names of Messrs. Tobin and Lapierre had been substituted for those of Messrs. Lapierre and Henderson, and that the names of Messrs. Baker (Nepean-Carleton), Malone, Nowlan, Chénier and Gimaiel had been substituted for those of Messrs. Fraser, Baker (Nepean-Carleton), Beatty, Irwin and Mackasey on the list of members appointed to serve on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government) tabled:

Report of the Department of National Health and Welfare for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 13 of the *Department of National Health and Welfare Act*, Chapter N-9, R.S.C., 1970.

Report on the administration of the *Canada Pension Plan* for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, pursuant to section 118 of the said Act, Chapter C-5, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of expenditures and administration in connection with the *Family Allowances Act* for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, pursuant to section 14 of the said Act, Chapter F-1, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of expenditures and administration in connection with the *Old Age Security Act* for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, pursuant to section 26 of the said Act, Chapter O-6, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of a Statement related to the Changing of the Definition of Acrylic Yarn to the Import Control List, issued by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce pursuant to section 5 of the *Export and Import Permits Act*, Chapter 29, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of a Statement related to the Addition of Whaling Apparatus and Appliances to the Import Control List, issued by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce pursuant to section 5 of the *Export and Import Permits Act*, Chapter 29, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of the Auditor General to the Solicitor General on the examination of the accounts and financial statement of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Dependants) Pension Fund for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 55(4) of the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act*, Chapter R-10, R.S.C., 1970.

Revised Report of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, including its accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to sections 75(3) and 77(3) of the *Financial Administration Act*, Chapter F-10, R.S.C. 1970.

Copies of Agreement between Canada and France on Social Security, signed at Ottawa, February 9, 1979, together with Order in Council P.C. 1980-2859, dated October 23, 1980, approving same.

QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE CABINET

ABSENCE OF MINISTERS FROM CHAMBER

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, we had questions for the ministers but I can see they are not here today. In the circumstances, I doubt that it was advisable to have the Senate meet this week only today and tomorrow, just for the convenience of committees. Apparently, the ministers, and probably the government, do not consider these days as important. So they stay away. The Deputy Leader of the Government can perhaps give us some explanation.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Yes, honourable senators, the Senate was convened today not only for the convenience of committees. I think Senator Argue is in town. He is here today. I do not know what keeps him away from the Senate at the moment.

Senator Perrault has other engagements in his home province.

I believe Senator Olson is also in Ottawa, and I am sorry he is not here now.

I am quite willing to take questions and transmit them to the appropriate department.