

Senator Frith: If we don't, we don't. That will simply mean that they have not adopted it. If that message is not received it could be that the motion was not adopted, and there could be any number of reasons for that. If the message is not here by the time we have finished our business we can either adjourn during pleasure until it arrives, or we can adjourn for the day.

If we find out—and I shall certainly try to find out shortly after 3 o'clock—that the motion has been adopted, then I suspect we would want to avoid what Senator Roblin has spoken of, namely, our not being here when the message arrives.

Hon. Lowell Murray: In view of the fact that when this matter came up in committee, Senator Goldenberg, as I am given to understand, argued that the television lights would be too bright and too hot, I wonder whether he could be equipped with a set of sunglasses and a parasol to encourage him to change his vote when the matter comes up again.

Senator Frith: I take it that that question is not addressed to Senator Goldenberg as Chairman of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee but to me, and I shall take it as notice.

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, with leave, I would move, seconded by Senator Roblin, that as far as the Senate is concerned, the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution may have its proceedings televised if it so desires.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Senators: No.

Senator Robichaud: I want to rise on a point of order. I understand that at the moment we are on Question Period, and I am wondering if a motion is in order.

Senator Flynn: I asked leave, and when you say "No" that is the end of it. I withdraw the motion because I cannot move it without your concurrence. You acting alone can block it.

The Hon. the Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and so the motion cannot be put.

ENERGY

EFFECT OF SPOT PURCHASES ON OIL PRICING

Hon. Jack Austin: Honourable senators, I would like to ask a question of the Deputy Leader of the Government, which he can take as notice. There is an increasing concern in the world energy community about upward pressure on spot oil prices, and part of the pressure, if not a good deal of it, is based on the purchases by both private and state companies in the western industrial community. In order to avoid this desperation that takes place in the marketplace which creates a ratchet-like effect on everybody's oil prices, I wonder if the government is considering, or discussing with other industrial countries, the possibility of limiting purchases as to price except by government agreement.

[Senator Asselin.]

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): That question will be taken as notice.

• (1440)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): When my honourable friend is looking into that question, perhaps he would address himself to a supplementary matter and tell us whether the International Energy Agency, which is our proxy in these matters, has considered these increases in prices and whether it has made any recommendations to the member states with respect to them. That is a corollary of the question my honourable friend, Senator Austin, has asked.

Senator Frith: Yes, I agree it is a corollary, and it will also be taken as notice.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—PRINTED PROCEEDINGS

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets: Would the Deputy Leader of the Government inform this chamber whether honourable senators will receive a transcript of the deliberations of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I believe that the first group of transcripts of the proceedings have been received. I noticed the transcript covering the first two days of proceedings on my desk the other day.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

COVERAGE OF BUDGET SPEECH

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Godfrey on October 29, 1980, concerning the CBC coverage of the budget speech.

The decision to cover the budget speech in the way it did was made by CBC management, which Parliament has not interfered with in the past. I am informed that CBC chose to present the broadcast in the manner it did in order to make the budget more easily understood by the viewing public and also to maintain interest in the program.

Honourable senators will remember that the point of the question was that when the CBC coverage of the budget was presented—and, as I recall, it was the same on CTV—the Minister of Finance was frequently interrupted, taken off the screen, and a journalist would explain either what was coming up or what had taken place. Senator Godfrey would have liked to have heard the Minister of Finance make his own judgments about what was taking place, and then later to have listened to the commentary.

While the decision made by the news department of the CBC may have been unacceptable to most parliamentarians, I must reiterate that Parliament has no ability to interfere in the day-to-day decisions of that corporation.