

Senator Roblin: The government will continue to show good judgment in making a judicious mix of appointments from those who are known supporters of its policies and those who are not.

Senator Olson: The Leader of the Government used the phrase, "judicious mix." Is 13 out of 13 a good example of judicious mix?

Senator Roblin: In this particular case, I think it is admirable.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, there is a serious aspect to this matter, although there may also be some element of humour.

Can we now assume that the Tory party has completely abandoned its sanctimonious piety of last fall respecting patronage and that it will continue to do what it has done in the last few days?

Senator Roblin: We will have a good look around to see what competent people we can find irrespective of political views.

My friend should, by no means, assume that we have changed our policy.

Senator Olson: Can we take it, then, that what has been happening in the last few days reflects the policy of the present government and that the words of last July were just so much scam and fluff?

Senator Roblin: No, they are not. They are just as valid and just as worthy of confidence as the statements made by the leader of my honourable friend's party during the same period.

Senator Frith: As reliable as the sacred trust.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: To what classification, or to what quality of appointment does the Leader of the Government assign his own appointment, that of Senator Kelly, Senator Marshall, and the former Governor General, Mr. Ed Schreyer, though he was a member of the NDP?

Senator Roblin: If I knew the thrust of the question, I might be able to answer it. Would my honourable friend like to give it to me again?

Senator Olson: Who made the appointments?

Senator Gigantès: Is the Leader of the Government saying that when his government does things well and appoints members of other parties to certain posts, it is imitating the Liberal Party, but that when it appoints to the Air Canada board of directors 13 Tories—13 individuals whose qualifications may otherwise be admirable—it is simply using phrases such as "sacred trust" to camouflage the real issue?

Senator Roblin: I do not think anyone is trying to camouflage anything.

Hon. Charles McElman: Honourable senators, my question, as well, is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. May I preface it by saying that the individual from the province of New Brunswick named to the Air Canada board of directors is a first rate chap and an excellent businessman. He

is an individual I know well myself and for whom I have much respect. But he is also a bagman—

Some Hon. Senators: Shame! Shame!

Senator Doody: Horrors! People who finance elections.

Senator McElman: I am speaking of Jim Ross.

In the light of the gratuitous insult offered by the Prime Minister to so-called bagmen just before Christmas—our Christmas present—particularly "bagmen of the Senate," I now ask whether it is government policy to again elevate "bagmen" to a position of respect in the community.

Senator Doody: Bagpersons!

Senator Roblin: When I look around this chamber and see so many "bagmen" sitting here, I am inclined to agree with my honourable friend.

THE ECONOMY

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Hon. Lorna Marsden: My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

I understand that there will be 22 ministers from this government attending the Economic Summit at the end of the week. Will you be one of those?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I think the number is 20. I have been invited to attend, but I doubt that I will be present.

Senator Marsden: A supplementary, if I may. I wonder, then, whether you can tell us the means by which we in this chamber will learn about what goes on at the summit and from whom we can get information about the debates which will be held at that summit.

Senator Roblin: I think what my honourable friend is asking me is, what kind of a conference is this? I can tell her that this is a conference which is not organized by the government in any direct sense. While it is true that the government suggested that the conference be held and made the preliminary arrangements for it, it is a committee of citizens who decided who would be invited to attend the conference and who would be invited to present papers.

Those ministers of the government whose portfolios bear on the particular subject under discussion are expected to be in attendance, though they may or may not take part in the proceedings. The proceedings will consist of the presentation of a number of papers and ensuing discussions, all of which will be fully publicized.

Senator Marsden: My question relates to how we in this chamber will get access to the debates that take place. I have read the papers and have reviewed the agenda. As well, I know a number of those who will be in attendance. I am interested at this point in what reports you will be able to provide for us in this chamber.