

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, at the present time there are indications that the other place will have dealt with the measure by 9.15 this evening. There is the possibility then that the bill will be here at some point later this evening. Hopefully, because of the urgency of the situation, it may be possible for honourable senators to deal with all of its stages before we leave this evening. However, this is a matter which I shall be pleased to discuss with the Leader of the Opposition during the course of the evening.

I can say that the members of the loyal opposition in the other place have been very co-operative in efforts to expedite consideration of this measure. However, co-operation must be forthcoming from all elements in the other place and in this chamber to make sure that this bill can become law in the next few hours.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

PROVINCIAL LIBERAL LEADERSHIP CONVENTION—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Senator Bonnell: Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege to draw attention to an error in a Toronto newspaper. I have before me a copy of the *Globe and Mail* of Saturday, October 14, 1978.

Senator Greene: Shame.

Senator Bonnell: Under the heading, "PEI Liberals to elect leader in December," it states:

Charlottetown (CP)—The governing Prince Edward Island Liberals will hold a leadership convention on December 9 to choose a permanent leader. The new leader would replace former premier Alex Campbell, who resigned on September 19. Finance Minister Bennett Campbell was appointed interim premier and party leader four days after the resignation. Senator Lorne Bonnell has told the party caucus and executive he would run.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Smith (Colchester): Which way?

Senator Bonnell: I wish to inform honourable senators, friends, and the people throughout Canada that the word "not" was left out and that the concluding words should be:

—he would not run.

I wish to assure you that I will be here in the Senate—

Senator Steuart:—for as long as it lasts.

Senator Bonnell:—for some time yet, provided my health prevails. I would like to correct the Canadian Press and the *Globe and Mail*. I will not be a contestant for the leadership. I will not be conscripted, and I cannot be drafted.

Senator Flynn: A very wise decision.

Senator Smith (Colchester): I commend the honourable senator for his discretion and prudence.

● (2010)

THE CONSTITUTION

IMPACT OF BY-ELECTION RESULTS ON AMENDING LEGISLATION—QUESTION

Senator Asselin: Honourable senators, I should like to know if the Leader of the Government thinks the results of the by-elections of yesterday will convince the government not to push forward with Bill C-60 with respect to the abolition of the Senate.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, as far as the events of yesterday are concerned, as one thinks back to the sequence of events a few months prior to and on the dates of the 1972 and 1974 general elections, one can only believe that the events of yesterday may represent but a temporary aberration in the voting patterns in this country. Perhaps when the supreme election decision faces the Canadian people a few months from now they may re-assess their political judgments.

Senator Asselin: The results will be worse.

Senator Smith (Colchester): You may get no votes.

Senator Perrault: As far as Bill C-60 is concerned, the government has not at any point insisted that it must be presented to Parliament intact for passage at some future date. Bill C-60 and the white paper on the Constitution which preceded it were designed to bring about the kind of vigorous discussion that has in fact taken place over the summer months. A number of excellent ideas have emerged from many directions, including ideas from the opposition parties and the provinces, and I think that ultimately the result may be a very much improved bill.

Senator Smith (Colchester): And ideas from senators.

Senator Perrault: Indeed.

GREAT LAKES SHIPPING

STRIKE OF ENGINEERS AND DECK OFFICERS—QUESTION

Senator McDonald: I should like to ask the Leader of the Government a question with respect to the Great Lakes shipping strike. I know that all of us across Canada are very concerned about the postal strike, and the answer the Leader of the Government has given us is encouraging. However, many people, especially those in western Canada, have equal if not more concern about the strike of engineers and deck officers on the Great Lakes. Can the Leader of the Government give us any information on whether they will be legislated back to work, or whether this strike can be settled in the very near future through arbitration or some other means?

Senator Perrault: The government is very much aware of the urgency and importance of the situation and the need to find a satisfactory resolution of the dispute. I have been informed—and I hope to confirm it very shortly—that Upper Lakes Shipping have in fact now signed an agreement. This company has, I understand, something like 26 vessels out of a