

also knows that there was a date by which it would be operational and would then be recoverable, also probably within the terms of the agreement. I will, however, obtain the precise information and put it on the record so that my honourable friend will have complete recall.

Senator Roblin: I do not want the honourable gentleman to lay that flattering unction on his soul. He is not going to be able to hide behind that agreement. He is going to have to justify the policy upon which the agreement was based. I ask him to tell us who will pay that \$50 million.

Senator Olson: My honourable friend already knows who is going to pay any bills arising out of commitments made by the federal government.

Senator Roblin: Yes, the taxpayers of Canada are going to pay.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

MEETINGS OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Peter A. Stollery: Honourable senators, I would like to ask a question at this time. I might say that I am a little surprised to see that neither Senator Murray nor Senator Tremblay appears to be present in the chamber this evening.

In view of the fact that most unusual proceedings are taking place at what purport to be meetings of the Special Joint Committee on Official Languages, and in view of the fact that charges against the Crown are being made by witnesses, large groups of whom are being called, at great cost, to attend these meetings, I am rather surprised at the absence of those two honourable senators. Since it is rather unclear as to which one of them claims to be the Senate joint chairman of that committee, I suppose I must ask my question of the Leader of the Government.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): If you had given notice, you could try that. You will make a speech, no doubt.

Senator Stollery: There seems to be no procedure, under the rules, by which I could ask the question of the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps there is a procedure whereby I could move a motion that the two senators be called to the Senate tomorrow to explain themselves. I would like to know what the situation is at this point, when these meetings are being held and the taxpayers' money is being spent—

Senator Flynn: Wait a minute! Order! Order! I rise on a point of order—

Senator Stollery: I am asking a question, Mr. Speaker, and I believe my question takes precedence.

Senator Flynn: I have a point of order.

Senator Stollery: There is no point of order.

Senator Flynn: You can't decide that. His Honour the Speaker will decide that, Senator Stollery. You had better resume your seat right away.

[Senator Olson.]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): He has the floor.

Senator Flynn: I will not resume my seat before he does.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): You are not the Speaker.

Senator Flynn: I am not the Speaker, but neither are you.

● (2025)

I rise on a point of order. The honourable senator is putting arguments before his question and they are entirely irrelevant.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): He is presenting an introductory basis for his question and is in order.

Senator Flynn: No, no. He is saying that money is being spent. He doesn't know what he is talking about.

Hon. G. I. Smith: That is as usual.

Senator Frith: We might have a ruling on that for future questions by the Opposition.

The Hon. the Speaker: Order!

Senator Stollery: After that dubious point of order, honourable senators, I should like to be allowed at least to complete my question to the Leader of the Government.

Senator Flynn: Then ask a question. Come to the end of your question.

Senator Stollery: I wish to ask him if he has any idea of how we may find out what the percentage—

Senator Smith: When is the honourable gentleman going to start his question?

Senator Perrault: I would like to thank the honourable gentleman for his question.

Senator Flynn: You asked him to put it, of course.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, it is incredible the depth of cynicism to which the Leader of the Opposition has descended over the years.

Senator Smith: The depth of perception, you mean.

Senator Perrault: Surely the honourable senator is not implying that I arranged to have Senator Tremblay absent from the chamber tonight, or that I—

Senator Flynn: I rise on a question of privilege.

Senator Perrault: Sit down!

Senator Flynn: I rise on a question of privilege, and you had better sit down or I will make you sit down.

Senator Perrault: I did not arrange to have Senator Murray absent from this chamber tonight either.

The Hon. the Speaker: Order, please! Order!

Senator Flynn: The Leader of the Government has said that I arranged for Senator Tremblay to be absent.

Senator Perrault: I did not.