

THE SENATE

Thursday, September 16, 1971

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

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Copies of Agreement dated August 11, 1971, between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta under the Agricultural and Rural Development Act (ARDA), chapter A-4, R.S.C., 1970. (English text).

Copies of joint communiqué issued following the Sixth Meeting of the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee, held at Toronto, September 13 and 14, 1971.

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO SIT DURING ADJOURNMENTS

Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1)(e):

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have power to sit during adjournments of the Senate of more than one week.

He said: Honourable senators, when I presented such a motion on Tuesday last on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Flynn) asked me why it was necessary. To be quite honest, I did not know the reason, but I got away with it. I now refer Senator Flynn to Rule 76(2) and (3) of the Rules of the Senate, which gives permission for select committees to sit up to one week, but for anything which exceeds a week they must have permission of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I looked at the rule and found out that we were both wrong.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Are we going to have an adjournment of more than a week? Is that what you are telling us?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: A statement will be made a little later in the day.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS

POST OFFICE CONSTRUCTION IN WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA—QUESTION

Hon. Frank C. Welch: I have a question I would like to ask the Government Leader (Hon. Mr. Martin). I am sorry to burden him with the task of trying to obtain a reply for me, but I have had no success with the Department of Public Works. I directed my request for information to them in June; I repeated it in mid-July and

again in mid-August; it is now mid-September, three months later, and I am still without a reply.

What I would like to know is:

1. Whose idea was it to have the Government build a new post office in the town of Wolfville, Nova Scotia?

2. What was the reason for having a new post office in Wolfville?

3. How much did it cost?

4. Was the cost of removing the old post office part of the contract to build the new one?

5. If not, how much did the removal of the old one cost?

6. Was the cost of landscaping included in the building contract? If not, what did the landscaping cost?

7. Who was granted the material from the old building?

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, I regret that the honourable senator has had difficulty in getting responses to these questions. I will endeavour to see if I can do better.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I do not think you can. The civil servants ignore us parliamentarians all the time. They are running the country. We know that. I hope you admit that.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Once the Leader of the Government intervenes, I hope the honourable senator realizes that the circumstances could change.

THE SENATE

USE OF CHAMBER BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, there are two brief matters I would like to bring to your attention. First of all, I have a statement to make with respect to the use of this chamber by organizations other than the Senate itself.

On Tuesday, September 14, the honourable Senator Molson brought to the attention of the Senate the question of making the facilities of our chamber available to international bodies, in particular to interparliamentary associations on the occasion of their annual conferences. Senator Molson made no objection to such a practice but suggested, and rightly, that the Senate should be consulted on such occasions.

We all agree, I think, that during a prolonged adjournment, consultation is rather difficult. In such a case, it has happened that His Honour the Speaker and the