

spokesman for the government what makes it so virtuous for the government to conduct six public opinion surveys and to resist so strenuously the process of consulting Canadians regarding the GST? Do you have more faith in the polling organizations of Canada than you do in the people?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I must admit that during the course of the hearings I did suffer some pangs of doubt about the objectivity of the committee. It seemed to me from time to time that they were not quite as balanced as one would like.

I have no knowledge of the public opinion polls other than what I have read in the same newspaper article that the honourable senator referred to.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

#### ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL AT CENOTAPH

**Hon. Paul Lucier:** Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of Senator Doody. I know that he will not be able to give an answer right now.

The veterans of Canada have been insulted by the fact that for the second time since World War II—the first time was because of illness—a Governor General will not be present for the unveiling of the wreath at the Cenotaph. Has there been any discussion to convince the Governor General that the veterans of this country should not be insulted, that the Governor General should be here and should not be in Japan at this time of the year?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I have no information with regard to that, but I shall attempt to get an answer for you.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### PRESENT DEFICIT

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat:** The Deputy Leader of the Government will need to obtain an answer to my question at a later date because it is a factual answer that I seek.

On Friday, October 26, on "Canada A.M.", a commentator made the statement that the UIC would be \$4 billion in the red by 1992. Could that figure be confirmed? Could you obtain for us the amount of the present deficit and whether the projection is, indeed, for a \$4 billion deficit in 1992?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I will make the inquiry senator.

● (1610)

### DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have twelve delayed answers to questions.

### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### DECISION TO DISCONTINUE SATURDAY RURAL SERVICE IN P.E.I.

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the first delayed answer I have is in response to a question raised in the Senate on October 23, 1990, by the Honourable Senator M. Lorne Bonnell, regarding Canada Post Corporation—Decision to Discontinue Saturday Rural Service in P.E.I.

*(The answer follows:)*

I have been informed by the Minister Responsible for Canada Post Corporation that the standardization of rural route mail delivery in Prince Edward Island to five days-a-week was done in order to bring the Island into line with the majority of rural routes in the rest of the country. Moreover, this initiative brings mail delivery into line with what the majority of Island residents receive, i.e. five-days-a-week.

Canada Post is continually reviewing its operations with the objective of improving efficiency of the mail processing and delivery system and has therefore moved to end this long standing anomaly.

The Honourable Senator may also want to know that this initiative has improved for those customers on the Island who were previously receiving rural route delivery less than five days a week.

### THE ECONOMY

#### HIGH INTEREST RATES—RELATION TO INFLATION—EFFECT ON WESTERN CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the second delayed answer I have is in response to a question raised in the Senate on October 23, 1990, by the Honourable H.A. Olson, regarding The Economy—High Interest Rates—Relation to Inflation—Effect on Western Canada—Government Position.

*(The answer follows:)*

Canadian Wheat Board initial payments are set prior to the beginning of each crop year in relation to the best estimates of market returns available at that time, with a view to avoiding deficits in the pool accounts. When the 1990/91 initial payments were announced on May 1, 1990, world wheat and coarse grain crops were forecast to be larger than the 1989/90 crops and were expected to exceed world consumption for the first time in several years. World wheat stocks were forecast to increase by 10 million tonnes in 1990/91. When there is a rebuilding of stocks, this normally leads to a reduction in prices. In addition, the United States and the European Community were expected to have larger exportable supplies of wheat and coarse grains in 1990/91 which could lead to an increase in export subsidies from the 1989/90 levels.

At this time, world wheat production in 1990/91 is estimated at a record 584 million tonnes, an increase of 46 million tonnes from last year. Larger wheat crops have