

the word "extreme" again with or without histrionic inflections. I shall try to be as undramatic as I possibly can in describing the condition of the public purse.

Honourable Senator Stewart is quite right when he says the rush is for the supplementary estimates (A) and not for the main estimates. If two appropriation bills had been tabled, then the pressure would have been on for the supplementary estimates, but this is not the way it has been done. I am told that when early supplementaries have been tabled in May, they have been presented to Parliament as one appropriation bill. I was tempted to say that they have always been but I am learning as I go along, so I am not going to box myself into that corner any more. I can see Senator Stewart searching for a precedent and saying, "No, in 1927 there was a set of supplementaries brought in." I am sorry that I did not have this information yesterday because I would have been more than happy to oblige at that time. I hope that this clears up the matter to the satisfaction of Senator Stewart. I promise to be more precise in my language in the future.

Senator Stewart: Honourable senators, I think that that was a very helpful answer and I am sure it will expedite our business.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

NORTHERN WATERS—SOVEREIGNTY

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: Honourable senators, my question is to the Leader of the Government in the Senate and it is in regard to the very important question of Canada's sovereignty over its northern waters. I am sure my honourable friend is aware that there is a current proposal by the United States government to have a United States Coast Guard icebreaker proceed through the Northwest Passage this summer. In view of the fact that Canada has been claiming, and in my view very properly so, and, indeed, establishing for a number of years in a very clear fashion that those are Canadian waters, in light of that serious question of sovereignty plus the added question of the possible ecological damage, and considering that Canada has been in the forefront in assuring that whatever happened in the Arctic there was to be no ecological harm, could the leader indicate to us what action the government proposes to take in this regard? Will it be prepared to take this matter before the International Court or what exactly does the government propose to do?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I think I had better deal with the specific instance of the question and tell my honourable friend that we are aware that this icebreaker will be traversing the Northwest Passage during the summer and that we are in communication with the Government of the United States about it. We have told that government that we must be satisfied that the specifications and the route plans of the voyage meet our requirements for environmentally safe Arctic passage. We are negotiating with them to that effect. I am told that this particular passage is not to undermine our legal position respecting our claims that the

Northwest Passage is, indeed, part of this country, as is the whole Arctic archipelago, in our view.

I can also say without breaching the rules of confidence that this whole subject is a matter of concern to the administration and steps are being considered as to how it should best be tackled. I do not think that we would like to take it to the World Court in the first instance, that there should be other methods by which we can approach the problem, and they are being given consideration at the present time.

JUNE 24 CELEBRATIONS

SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY—ANNIVERSARY OF LANDING OF GIOVANNI CABOTO

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, my question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate and it is one that is non-controversial. I want to preface my question by saying that I hope I am not upstaging the leader when I ask him if it is his intention to express later on today the best wishes of the Senate to our confrères from Quebec who will celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on June 24, a very important holiday to that province.

Also, I would like to ask him if he is aware of whether or not the Canadian government is preparing celebrations in connection with June 24, which is the day on which Giovanni Caboto landed—

Senator Doody: Who?

Hon. Senators: Oh, oh!

Senator Bosa: —either in Cape Breton or Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland in 1497. I am not saying that Giovanni Caboto was the first person to set foot in North America, but he is the first person who set out to make new discoveries. Of course, he returned to tell the people what he had found. As Senator Olson has said on previous occasions, the Vikings were here long before him. I have learned that committees have been formed in Italy and in the United States to prepare for the celebration in 1992 of the five-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of North America and to honour Cristofolo Colombo.

An Hon. Senator: Cristofolo who?

Senator Bosa: I am wondering whether the Canadian government is preparing similar celebrations to honour Giovanni Caboto on the occasion of the five-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Canada.

Senator Guay: Was he your grandfather?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I thank my honourable friend for bringing to the notice of the Senate the fact that June 24 is the national day of the Province of Quebec with Saint Jean Baptiste as the patron saint, and I endorse his words of goodwill on that occasion.

The honourable senator interests me much with his references to, I must say John Cabot because, although I can claim an Italian ancestor, I cannot claim the accent my honourable friend has. I recall that King Henry VII was the monarch who