

[Translation]

CENSORSHIP

NATURE AND DANGER—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I wish to give notice that, next Wednesday, October 9, 1985, I will call the attention of the Senate to the nature of censorship and the danger it represents.

[English]

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government), with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), moved:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, October 8, 1985, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

BANKING

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK—MEMORANDUM OF INTENT—REQUEST FOR ANSWERS

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a question about some questions. The Leader of the Government will recall that when I asked a series of questions about the Memorandum of Intent that had been tabled in the House of Commons in connection with the Canadian Commercial Bank, he, quite understandably, took the questions as notice. At that time, we agreed that those questions would relate to any pre-study of the deposit insurance bill undertaken by the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. I should like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Government that it is possible that that committee will undertake that pre-study soon. As I mentioned when I put the questions to him, it would be desirable to have that information in order to be properly prepared for the appearance in committee of the minister and any other witnesses. Will he ask his assistants to provide that material to us for next week?

As the minister knows, it is proposed that the committee will meet Wednesday night. There are a few slips between cup and lip—a few things that have to be done—before that comes about. I would ask him to try to provide that material to us next week before the committee meeting.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I believe that I accepted the questions in the form of an order for return. I have already explained to my friend the problems involved in putting together the large amount of detail and documentation that he requested. I cannot really tell him at the present moment when it will be forthcoming,

[The Hon. the Speaker.]

but I want to tell him this, that on the day we spoke I passed the whole of that exchange on, in the form of *Hansard*, to my colleague, the Minister of State (Finance). I made it perfectly clear to her that honourable senators expect to have that information when the committee meets. I will once again remind her of that fact.

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF REDUCTIONS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Len Marchand: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I have before me a newspaper article which indicates that there is a large shake-up in the works for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Over the next three years, apparently, the department will let go 1,500 employees, at a saving of some \$200 million. I would first like to ask the Leader of the Government whether this information is correct. Could he tell us the government policy on this particular matter?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I am afraid that government policy in respect of the specifics outlined in the newspaper report to which my friend refers has yet to be decided upon and finalized, so I am not able to give a specific answer. I think I can, however, give to my honourable friend some information, which is that the government does intend to take steps to improve the administration of that department, with particular reference to divesting itself of certain authority that it now uses by which it exercises some controls over the Indian and aboriginal peoples' activities in Canada.

• (1410)

The thrust of the study that is being made is to see how far we can introduce a greater element of self-government in the case of our aboriginal people, rather than adhering to the procedure we have followed these many years of centralizing it all in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

It is true that plans are being considered to improve the administration of the department, and it is quite probable, in my opinion, that there will be some changes in respect of jobs and also in respect of financing. But the thrust of it clearly is to get a framework that will better suit the wishes of the aboriginal people of this country.

Senator Marchand: Honourable senators, in connection with this process, I have also stated on a number of occasions that I would like to see the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development disappear and that I would like to see self-government for the native people. But there are a couple of aspects on which I would like some assurance. First, will the Leader of the Government ensure that there is adequate consultation not only with the Indian organizations but also with the existing Indian band governments regarding this matter; secondly, that there will be no contemplation of turning over the programs to the provinces?