

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 17, 1992

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

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

TRIBUTE TO ST. PATRICK AND THE IRISH PEOPLE

**Hon. William M. Kelly:** Honourable senators, I should like to draw to the attention of colleagues that today is St. Patrick's Day.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Kelly:** I believe that it is important to draw this day to the attention of colleagues, because, with the exception of Senator Kirby's tie, which I saw a minute ago, I see few green ties or other evidence of a green nature to mark the occasion.

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government):** On a question of privilege, I would point out the colour of my tie!

**Senator Frith:** Under the new rules, I don't think you can rise.

**Hon. C. William Doody:** I would like to point out my green tie.

**Senator Frith:** These points of privilege are all out of order under the new rules.

**Senator Kelly:** Nonetheless, honourable senators, I think it is a sad day—I see Peter Bosa has his green tie on. Thank you, Peter. I think it is a sad day that things of an Irish nature are forgotten, as they have been.

In times past, there was one senator who always sang an Irish song on March 17. The only person I know in this chamber who has a thoroughly beautiful voice is Senator Frith, and I thought perhaps he would do us the honour.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Kelly:** If he will lead us we will all join in.

**Senator Roblin:** Something from the *Mikado*.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I thank Senator Kelly for the compliment. I ask that the Speaker instruct the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to go down to the House of Commons and invite the Prime Minister to come here and sing "*When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*," and, if he has time, to get Mr. Reagan here to sing it as a duet, and we will wait.

**Senator Kelly:** As my final statement on this address, St. Patrick's Day is a time when we should all be nice to one another.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

### GENERAL ELECTION

NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT IN CURRENT TERM

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I also want to note—in an indirect way, admittedly—that it is March 17, 1992. If Senator Murray's government, to quote his words, "respects democracy", election day, as of St. Patrick's Day, 1992, is but 249 days away.

However, if Canadians are governed by, and I quote Senator Murray, "a cowardly government, a government that is contemptuous of democracy", the day of reckoning could still be 635 days away.

### THE ESTIMATES, 1992-93

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C)

**Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have the honour to table the Supplementary Estimates (C) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992.

[Translation]

### SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON A RENEWED CANADA

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TABLED

**Hon. Gérald A. Beaudoin:** Honourable senators, I wish to inform the Senate that pursuant to the order of the Senate made on Friday, June 21, 1991, I tabled with the Clerk of the Senate on Friday, February 28, 1992 the report of the Special Joint Committee formed to consider the government's proposals on a renewed Canada.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Beaudoin, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

[English]

### LOUIS RIEL

RECOGNITION OF HIS UNIQUE AND HISTORIC ROLE AS  
FOUNDER OF MANITOBA AND CONTRIBUTOR TO DEVELOPMENT  
OF CONFEDERATION—NOTICE OF MOTION

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 59(1)(i), I give notice that later this day I will move:

That the Senate take note that the Métis people of Rupert's Land and the North Western Territory, through democratic structures and procedures, took effective steps