

decline to answer, and that takes so much time. If my memory serves me correctly, the reference was instigated on the recommendation of the Prime Minister himself. Would it be fair to say that he would be the minister responsible for reporting on it?

Senator Olson: No, I did not say that I would be the minister reporting on the study. The other part of my honourable friend's memory is inaccurate too. The reference did, in fact, come directly from a first minister's meeting, and, obviously, the Prime Minister carried that reference to the Economic Council of Canada. I would also like to remind my honourable friend that even though he was unable to detect the answer, if he will carefully review it tomorrow, he will find that it was a very complete and accurate answer in the circumstances.

Senator Dood: If I cannot detect the answer tomorrow, will the honourable senator give me another clue for the game as it progresses?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I shall never cease to try.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF SENATORS IN EAST BLOCK

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Graham is now in the chamber and has some information on the question that was raised earlier. May I say for the record that Senator Graham was here earlier this evening and left only very briefly on an important matter.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): He also does a magnificent job.

● (2040)

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, with respect to the questions asked about the summit conference and the allocation of space in the East Block and elsewhere, immediately upon hearing of the concerns expressed in this chamber last week I contacted Mr. Derek Burney, the administrator for the 1981 summit conference. I will be meeting with him tomorrow, and he will be meeting with the full Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration Committee on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock to explain fully the situation, the program and the plans for the summit conference with respect to space that will be required.

Hon. Martial Asselin: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question for the chairman of the committee. Is it not true that when we asked to meet with you and the members of your committee, you told us that if we were going to move, the members of the House of Commons on the first floor were going to move also?

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, my understanding at that particular time was that there would be some movement. At that time I could not give, nor would I undertake to give—nor would I be in a position to do so—a blanket assurance that

all members of the other place who occupy space in the East Block would be required to move at exactly the same time and on exactly the same date as honourable senators who occupy space on the second floor. My understanding was that at some point in time, for security reasons, the building would, for the most part, be vacated by all people who occupied space in the building.

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay: Honourable senators, I believe it might be wise to await the outcome of the meeting on Thursday morning; but I would not want to let Senator Graham be under the false impression that we are all wrong and he is right in this sense. At that first meeting of the committee of which he is chairman the question was asked—and many honourable senators mentioned the fact—as to why senators were being moved and members of the other place were to remain on the main floor. One senator, in particular—in fact, it was a member of the opposition—requested that the information be obtained to assure the senators that not only senators would be moved but that all would be moved at that time.

I should like to tell Senator Graham, and other honourable senators, that my hearing is very good, and I recall very well—and I am not asking anyone to support me in this—that at a subsequent meeting we were told that not only senators would be moved but also members of the other place.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Guay: I am telling Senator Graham that now so that on Thursday morning he, and also the administrator, will be in a better position to tell us why there has been a change of mind on this particular matter.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, on that particular point, it should be recognized that the main meetings with respect to the summit conference to be held in Ottawa will be held in chambers provided on the second floor, and that the leaders of the various countries participating will occupy space that is now occupied by senators on the second floor. Honourable senators have to vacate their offices in that building earlier than honourable members of the other place, for reasons of security and because of the elaborate communications system that has to be installed in that space.

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question dealing with the matter of security. It was my understanding that the reason we were moved out so early was in order that security measures could be taken, and I can understand that; but it is difficult for me to reconcile how there can be security provided for those attending the summit conference when there will still be people not only on the first floor—such as members of Parliament and ministers of the government in the other place—but also on the third floor, where there are public servants, clerks, messengers and security people. How can we reconcile the fact that we are a security risk and the others are not?

Further, it is difficult to reconcile the fact that a summit conference that will take place for one day on the second floor is so vital to the world and to the economic situation that we