

## THE SENATE

Thursday, May 26, 1988

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker *pro tempore* in the Chair.

Prayers.

### CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO STUDY SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-130

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, I give notice that on Tuesday next, May 31, 1988, I will move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs be authorized to examine the subject-matter of the Bill C-130, An Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America, in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate or any matter relating thereto.

### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Dan Hays:** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), I move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry have power to sit at three thirty o'clock in the afternoon today, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that Rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Charles McElman:** Explain!

**Senator Hays:** Honourable senators, as you are aware, the subject matter of the drought situation in western Canada was referred to the committee on Thursday, May 19, 1988. We have an opportunity to hear from the Minister of Agriculture at 3.30 p.m. today. There was a suggestion that the minister could appear before a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday if he were unavailable today; he is available today and the committee would like to hear from him.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

EMERGENCIES BILL—RESOLUTION INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT 6 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1988

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), I move:

That, notwithstanding Rule 12 of the *Rules of the Senate*, the Senate do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole at 6:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday next, 31st May, 1988, to consider the Bill C-77, An Act to authorize the taking of special temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, Senator Doody advised me that he had arranged for the minister to appear at 6 p.m. on Tuesday next. Honourable senators will recall that we agreed it would be appropriate for the Senate to consider this important legislation in Committee of the Whole and to ask for the attendance of the minister. We also had discussions about whether it would be possible to have the Committee of the Whole sit in the evening, if necessary. Senator Doody arranged for the minister to appear at 6 o'clock on Tuesday, that suiting the minister's schedule. I told Senator Doody that I had not been able to discuss the matter with our principal spokesman on this bill, Senator Stewart, and that we would not want to proceed if he could not attend.

I know of no reason why he will not be able to attend and, obviously, we want to suit the convenience of the minister and those senators who are most interested in this piece of legislation. Senator Doody felt that he should at least make the arrangements and give advance notice of this meeting. I repeat that I know of no reason why we would be unable to suit the convenience of the minister, but we may not be able to guarantee that we will not ask for another date, if it should turn out that this date is not suitable for senators on this side.

**Senator Doody:** I can only add, honourable senators, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to try to anticipate the whereabouts of every senator who might be interested in a particular subject or project at a particular time. When it was suggested by honourable senators opposite that the Committee of the Whole would be the most appropriate forum for this particular hearing, I acceded with some reluctance—to be mild about it. I am not convinced that it is the proper forum, but, in any event, I went along with it at that time. It was also suggested that an evening session might be most appropriate.