

**Senator Roblin:** I am sure I will have a speedier reply if I do that.

● (1010)

**Senator Flynn:** If you won't tell us what the commissioner's opinion was, perhaps you could tell us what the government's reasons were for changing its mind?

**Senator Perrault:** There has been no change of mind with respect to the value of the use of a second language in this country, but the question will be taken as notice and it may be possible to bring additional information to the Senate, perhaps next week.

**Senator Flynn:** Perhaps!

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### SALE OF VICTORIA CROSS—QUESTION

**Senator Marshall:** Honourable senators, may I ask a question further to the one I asked yesterday with regard to the selling or auctioning of a Victoria Cross? I should state that a Military Medal and a Military Cross were also included in that sale, together with service decorations.

It has also been revealed that the Canadian War Museum is getting rid of unclaimed and unawarded medals, which are being sold and then falling into unscrupulous hands. Could the Leader of the Government get some information on this in addition to the information he is going to get from the Minister of Veterans Affairs on the question I asked yesterday? This situation is serious and is a blight on the value of the service decorations received by veterans who served their country.

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, that information has not been drawn to my attention until this time. Certainly an inquiry will go forward.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### SIGNING OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY—QUESTION

**Senator Bosa:** Honourable senators, may I ask the Leader of the Government if he is aware of any plans by the Government of Canada to participate in the celebration of the signing of the historic peace agreement between Israel and Egypt on the north lawn of the White House on Monday, March 26, 1979?

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, there are no plans of which I am aware for Canada to be a participant in the signing of a document which will bring peace between Egypt and Israel. However, I think Canadians can derive great satisfaction from the fact that during the long and difficult relationship between these two Middle East countries, Canada has played an extremely constructive role in many areas.

**Senator Grosart:** Including the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

[Senator Perrault.]

### HEALTH RESOURCES FUND ACT

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT OF THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND SCIENCE—QUESTION

**Senator Phillips:** Honourable senators, on several occasions in the past I have directed questions to the Leader of the Government concerning the recommendation of the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science on Bill C-2, to amend the Health Resources Fund Act. Is the Honourable Leader of the Government now able to assure the Senate that the government has accepted this resolution? If so, can he give us that assurance before dissolution of Parliament?

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senator, I stated some time ago that the minister was giving consideration to the Senate's recommendations, striving always to attempt to improve health services to the Canadian people wherever they may live.

**Senator Flynn:** The assurance will come during the campaign.

**Senator Phillips:** Have we any hope of getting an affirmative answer before dissolution?

**Senator Perrault:** There is always hope, with this ministry.

**Senator Phillips:** Always hope, but no action.

**Senator Roblin:** Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

**Senator Grosart:** It springs eternal, though.

### BANK ACT

#### QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT

#### BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Senator McIlraith** moved the third reading of Bill C-49, to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

**Senator Flynn:** Honourable senators, a few thoughts came to my mind with regard to this bill when it came in late yesterday. It is in the same form as the previous one, and technically there is no problem. But I am amused at the idea that if dissolution should take place this weekend, as has been suggested it might by the Leader of the Government and also by the sponsor of Bill C-42, yesterday, when we were dealing with the necessity to pass that bill, that if such an event were to take place, in principle the government would not need this bill. The banking legislation would be continued for 60 days after Parliament reconvened. The first session of Parliament would start, let us say, in September. I was toying with the idea that perhaps we could delay passage of third reading until Monday or Tuesday, if we are here. If we are not here, it is not important; it is not necessary. If we are here, we could wait until March 28, but I suppose that would bring jitters to the sponsor of the bill and to the government.

But then another idea came to me. Since it is very probable that we will have a new government in the next session, we should in fairness give that new government more time to bring in a better bill.