

**Senator Murray:** Those forecasts have turned out to be remarkably accurate, as the honourable senator will see from consulting the relevant tables in the budget documents.

**Senator Haidasz:** The only way your forecasts have become accurate is that the economy is getting worse and people are being laid off.

**Senator Thériault:** More bankruptcies.

**Senator Haidasz:** How can the minister tell us that things are getting better when they are getting worse?

**Senator Frith:** They are not getting better; they are very, very good. That is the quote I heard.

**Senator Murray:** The honourable senator raised this matter the other day and indicated that the statistics that I have placed on the record from Statistics Canada, a source which surely he respects, are wrong. I invited the honourable senator on that day to bring in the documentation that perhaps he has in his possession which will prove that Statistics Canada statistics are wrong. I am still waiting.

## AGRICULTURE

### FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR GRAINS SECTOR—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. H.A. Olson:** Honourable senators, I want to ask the Leader of the Government when the farmers in Canada, particularly the grain and oilseed producers, can expect the \$700 million out of the \$800 million that the government promised last fall? The Leader of the Government will recall that I asked him a number of questions over a long period of time—about two weeks—before he finally said—and he did—that it is new money, in addition to all other commitments, and that it will be paid before seeding in 1992.

I want to remind the Leader of the Government that the temperature in Calgary went up to plus 22 yesterday, and it will probably be up there today.

**Senator Frith:** 22?

**Senator Olson:** Yes, so spring is at hand.

**Senator Frith:** Celsius?

**Senator Olson:** Yes, Celsius.

**Senator Frith:** Bathing suit weather.

**Senator Molgat:** They were out in the sun.

**Senator Olson:** It was to break that record again today.

● (0930)

We are getting pretty close to spring. That is the point. Could you give us an update concerning whether or not that money will be paid out to the producers. What is probably more important, because they still do not know what formula you will use to distribute it, could you give us an indication of what that is?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** I will ask for that update from my colleague.

[Senator Frith.]

**Senator Olson:** The problem with asking for it is that we will not sit again until March 17. By that time it will not be entirely before seeding. There might be some of it done by then.

**Senator Murray:** On March 17 spring certainly will be at hand.

## NATIONAL FINANCE

### GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS—PROGRESS OF BORROWING AUTHORITY LEGISLATION

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, before we go on to the next item I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate if the government is now borrowing money under section 46 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

My second question is: Is there any urgency in the enactment of the Borrowing Authority Bill which is now before Parliament?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I would have to ask my colleague, the Minister of Finance, for a statement as to the present borrowing activity of the government. I must confess that I do not know the answer to that question.

I am trying to recall what I was told about the borrowing bill which Mr. Mazankowski tabled the other day. Subject to correction, I believe I have been told that the government needs to have it passed by the end of the third week in March or certainly by the end of the fiscal year.

**Senator Stewart:** So it follows that the government's financial requirements are such that there is no need for the House of Commons to deal with the bill next week and there is no need for the Senate to convene again before March 17?

**Senator Murray:** Not as far as I am aware of, honourable senators. The information which I believe I saw the other day would confirm that.

## GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

### PROTECTION OF ARTICLE IX—APPARENT AMBIVALENCE IN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, my question to the minister arises from an article in the *Globe and Mail*. It is written by Madelaine Drohan, European bureau in Paris. The headline is "Politics gets in the way at GATT." It goes on to describe—

**Hon. Duff Roblin:** Is something new? Is that a new thought?

**Senator Molgat:** Yes it is a new one, but it seems to have some strange convolutions. That is why I should like some clarification.

The article goes on to say that French President François Mitterand is being painted as the villain because he does not want to go along with changes to the GATT. But the portion that drew my attention is this one: