

RIDEAU HALL  
OTTAWA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

27 February 1985

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Antonio Lamer, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to-day, the 27th day of February, 1985, at 4.30 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière  
Administrative Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate  
Ottawa

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, before we adjourn during pleasure to await Royal Assent, I think it would be appropriate for me to discuss with honourable senators our program for the near future.

I have made careful inquiries of my colleagues in the House of Commons about the progress of legislation before that body. The House of Commons has a great deal of business before it; there are 15 or 20 bills on the Order Paper, some of which are of considerable importance. If it were thought likely that those bills would be passed in time for us to deal with them in the very near future, I think it would be our duty to attend to them. One can never tell how quickly bills can be moved through the House of Commons—

**Senator Lewis:** Or the Senate!

**Senator Flynn:** The same applies to the Senate.

**Senator Roblin:** At least the members of the House of Commons were elected to consider bills, whereas we were not.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Senator Roblin:** My honourable friends will have a great deal more to "oh, oh" about before I am through.

Getting back to the point I was at before I received such an interesting expression of opinion, I cannot guarantee the pace at which legislation is moved through the House of Commons. Indeed, I cannot guarantee the pace at which legislation moves through the Senate. We have just found that out! Neither can the government guarantee the pace at which legislation moves through the House of Commons, even though it has a majority, because it is the government's firm policy to make sure that adequate debate does take place.

So, honourable senators, the best information I can obtain at the present time is that there are not likely to be any bills coming before the Senate from the House of Commons in the immediate future. I reflect also on the fact that last week we met longer than we usually would have, and on the fact that the House of Commons was on its winter recess. We gave up our winter recess last week to attend to the important business of this chamber, and I am glad we did. Now, however, we could consider the possibility of reinstating that winter recess for next week, which might be reasonable in view of the fact that the legislative program before us is likely to be nonexistent, or, at the best, skimpy.

So, unless there is a reason an honourable senator would like to advance as to why this course of action should not be followed, I would expect that, after Royal Assent has been given and we move the adjournment of the house, it will be adjourned until March 12.

There are a couple of things that should be said about next week. The first is that committees of the Senate will be meeting. We intend to provide authority for that, if we have not already done so. Those meetings should be held because a number of our committees are considering important subjects and we wish those committees to continue their work.

The other point I wish to make is that on Thursday next, March 7, the Secretary General of the United Nations will be making a joint address to the House of Commons and to the Senate. It so happens that the House of Commons will also not be sitting on that particular day, but I suspect there will be a good turnout of those senators who live close to Ottawa in order to make sure that the proper courtesies are extended to our distinguished visitor, the Secretary General of the United Nations.

• (1410)

I ask honourable senators who are within easy reach of this building to make a note that at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the Secretary General will be speaking to a joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Commons in the House of Commons, and I would ask honourable senators to attend on that occasion. Naturally, invitations will be extended, but I wanted to give this advance notice because, as I said, we may be adjourning for a period of time at the end of this sitting today. If there are any comments that honourable senators want to make with respect to that program, I would appreciate their speaking now.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government),** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), moved:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, 1985, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Motion agreed to.