

THE SENATE

Monday, March 29, 1993.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

NEW SENATOR

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform the Senate that the Clerk has received a certificate from the Registrar General of Canada showing that Terrance R. Stratton has been summoned to the Senate.

INTRODUCTION

The Hon. the Speaker having informed the Senate that there was a senator without, waiting to be introduced:

The following honourable senator was introduced; presented Her Majesty's writ of summons, which was read by the Clerk Assistant; took the oath prescribed by law, which was administered by the Clerk; and was seated:

Hon. Terrance R. Stratton, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, introduced between Honourable Lowell Murray and Honourable Janis Johnson.

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the honourable senator named above had made and subscribed the declaration of qualification required by the Constitution Act, 1867, in the presence of the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed to receive and witness the said declaration.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Stratton's political affiliation and his participation in politics, which have been at a high level and of a high quality in the Progressive Conservative Party, have, not surprisingly, been emphasized in the media coverage of his appointment to this place. Less attention, however, has been given in media coverage to other facets of his career that are at least as well-known and at least as highly appreciated in his province of Manitoba. Senator Stratton has served as a managing partner with a company specializing in architecture and architectural development. He has also served as an instructor of civil architectural technology at Red River Community College in Winnipeg. Senator Stratton is the president-elect of the United Way of Winnipeg and currently serves as its senior vice-president. He has also served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Winnipeg and as a director of the Winnipeg Football Club, among many other activities of an important nature in terms of service to his community and his province.

I draw attention to these matters simply to underline the fact that all who know the Honourable Terrance Stratton are

confident that he will make a constructive contribution to the Senate and to Parliament. We on this side are delighted to welcome him as a colleague.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, in spite of widespread mythology to the contrary, the Senate of Canada is a place that provides many opportunities for constructive and independent-minded service to the people of Canada. I congratulate our new senator on having been given the opportunity to play a role in that respect.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

SASKATCHEWAN

ECONOMIC UPSWING—CURRENT STATISTICS

Hon. Efstathios William Barootes: Honourable senators, I wish to take this opportunity to draw to your attention some of the new economic facts in my province of Saskatchewan. We have gone through some pretty dreadful years as far as agriculture is concerned, but there is a little light showing now. The Conference Board of Canada forecasts that personal disposable income will rise by 2.6 per cent this year. The inflation rate in the city of Saskatoon, which had been averaging 7.6 per cent from 1980 to 1984, has, in the last seven years under this administration, dropped to around 4.4 per cent.

Senator Thériault: Nobody has any money.

Senator Barootes: Would the honourable senator like to hear the rest of it, or would he like to read it himself? I want to make a statement.

Senator Di Nino: We certainly want to hear the honourable senator.

Senator Barootes: Bad news bothers these people, and good news bothers them. I don't know what they want.

Senator Di Nino: Everything bothers them.

Senator Barootes: Housing starts for this January are up 6 per cent over last year. Exports from Saskatchewan are up 135 per cent from 1984 to 1991, and this past year they rose by 13 per cent. Our manufacturing shipments from Saskatchewan are up 26 per cent from 1984 to 1991 and for this year, January over January, they are up by 36 per cent. Retail sales from 1984 to 1991 are again up 23 per cent, and year over year, from December 1984 to December 1992, they are up by 32 per cent. This is an enormous rise over the last short period, being 7 per cent from 1991 to 1992.