

THE SENATE

Wednesday, September 15, 1971

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

Prayers.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Fund to Aid in Research on the Diseases of Children, including the Auditor General's Report on the financial statements of the Board, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 15 of the Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund Act, chapter Q-1, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of a communiqué issued by The Canadian Wheat Board, dated September 14, 1971, respecting the sale of wheat to the People's Republic of China.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald: Honourable senators, before Orders of the Day are called I would like to make a short statement with respect to the anticipated activities of this chamber and its committees over the next week or so. The honourable Senator Molson yesterday referred to rumours. There are even more rumours today than there were yesterday, but we are not always influenced by rumours.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Have you any facts?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Facts are hard to come by. However, from the best information I have been able to obtain there is a possibility that Bill C-262—the \$80 million bill, as I call it—will be passed by the House of Commons by Friday, or Monday of next week.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Is that Friday of this week?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Monday of next week or Friday of this week. That being the case this chamber would be anxious to deal with it immediately, and that would necessitate our returning next Tuesday. I hope to have more concrete information by this time tomorrow, but should that be the best guess, then, we will return to deal with that bill probably on the evening of September 21.

Hon. Mr. Walker: In the cafeteria?

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, in this chamber. If we are able to deal with the bill next week, then, in all probability the Senate would adjourn to October 4, subject to recall. This would allow us to free the chamber and other facilities in this building for the NATO meeting. During

the period of adjournment the Senate will be busying itself with its committee meetings despite the fact that the house will not be sitting. The Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has set a meeting for September 22 at 4 p.m., when the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Hon. Mr. Pepin, will be the witness. That committee has a second meeting set for September 29 at 3.30 p.m., when Mr. Philip Talbot, who is the head of the Asian Society of New York City, will be the witness. The Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce will meet on September 29 and September 30.

That is the best information I can give honourable senators at the moment. I hope there will be something more concrete tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I am in full sympathy with the deputy leader.

CRIMINAL CODE (JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN)

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

Hon. Muriel McO. Fergusson moved the third reading of Bill S-20, to amend the Criminal Code (Jury Service for Women).

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, when the third reading of this bill was called on the day the Senate recessed I suggested that it be postponed until today, not because I did not want the bill to pass, for I then indicated that I would agree, and still will agree, to third reading being given, but because I wanted to check on what the legislatures of the two provinces where women were not allowed to act as jurors had done in the meantime.

I consider that the main objective of this bill was really to force these two provinces to do something about it. They have done so. On June 18, royal assent was given to a bill passed by the National Assembly of Quebec, amending the Jury Act, whereby women henceforth may act as jurors.

I know that the Legislature of the Province of Newfoundland has passed an act, further to amend the Judicature Act. I have not the date royal assent was given to the bill. The explanatory note to the bill shows that it was designed to provide that the obligation of service for juries would include, among others, women and civil servants.

Honourable senators, we have been given the opinion by the Department of Justice that the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction in this matter, in any event as far as criminal matters are concerned. I do not doubt that.

The only point I wish to put on the record is that since 1867 the problem of the selection of juries in civil as well as in criminal matters has been left entirely to the deci-