

good for some and bad for others. That is the fact of the matter.

With respect to the price of oil today, which is around \$17, that is a pretty difficult figure for some people in this wide world to accommodate, particularly the Mexicans.

I can say that only yesterday the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was in Newfoundland talking to representatives of Mobil Oil and to people on the Hibernia site, and there seemed to be a firm determination on the part of all concerned that that project, which is the closest to maturity, would certainly proceed.

**Senator Olson:** Can I take it that so far as the government is concerned, where the price of oil is today and where it appears to be heading, which is down still further, is not any cause for this government to do any more than maintain what the leader describes as a "watching brief"? In other words, they do not intend to do anything to take some of those projects out of the difficult position that they find themselves in, which may be jeopardy. As far as Syncrude and the heavy oil upgrader at Lloydminster and a number of others are concerned, I take it from the minister's response that present prices are satisfactory to the government in economic terms.

**Senator Roblin:** All I can say is that at the present time all those projects are on course.

**Senator Perrault:** Straight down!

### STATUS OF WOMEN

#### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE—GOVERNMENT DELAY

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, I should like to direct my question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I believe he has already learned that the enlightened Government of Ontario has introduced legislation boosting basic pay scales for female-dominated jobs in the civil service considered of equal value to higher-paying ones usually held by males.

I should like to ask him this question: Why is the federal government delaying in bringing in any measures to give equal pay for work of equal value?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I want to tell my honourable friend that he is right. I learn something every day, even if it is from the Government of Ontario, and I expect to learn a good deal more before I am through.

All I can say with respect to his question is that the government, I believe, has introduced legislation with respect to equal pay for work of equal value, which is presently being considered by the House of Commons and, in due course, will appear here.

**Senator Perrault:** In due course.

[Senator Roblin.]

### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

#### PUBLICATIONS—REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF PERMISSION FEE

**Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. The government, through the Department of Supply and Services, is now charging writers, historians and researchers a permission fee of \$25 per page for excerpts from government publications used in their books or publications. In addition to that, they are charging a 3.5 per cent royalty on the retail price of the book written by the historian or writer.

Apparently these fees were imposed without any prior consultation with either the writers' community or the publishers' association. This obviously takes the form of taxation and acts as a barrier to the wide accessibility to, dissemination of, or analysis of government publications or materials. It appears to be contrary to the public interest and to the long-established policy regarding the wide dissemination of government publications. Could the Leader of the Government consult his colleagues to see whether this odious and punitive fee could be removed?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Yes, I will, honourable senators.

#### "HOW CANADIANS GOVERN THEMSELVES"—UNAVAILABILITY OF BOOKLET

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat:** Honourable senators, I wish to address a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It is not a matter that I would normally bring to this chamber, but I have been unable to get any satisfaction otherwise, although I have attempted to do so. Perhaps this is the best place in which to try once more.

Some time ago, a publication entitled, "How Canadians Govern Themselves" and, in the French text, "Les canadiens et leur système de gouvernement," written by one of our former colleagues, Senator Forsey, was produced and widely distributed by the Canadian Unity Information Office. Originally, it was issued as one booklet, with the English and French versions reversed. Subsequently, it was published as two individual language booklets.

Honourable senators, this booklet is no longer available. I have made inquiries of various government departments and I have been told that it is no longer in print. The government has abolished the Canadian Unity Information Office, yet there is a very wide demand by young Canadians for this book or something similar to it. We cannot get any satisfaction from any government department. We are simply told—and, more recently, they have been getting rather curt when requested—that it is not in print and that it is not to be printed again.

Could the Leader of the Government in the Senate find out why this booklet cannot be made available when there is a public demand for it? Presumably, he will be told that there is no money for its republication and that that is due to cost cutting. Let me just remind him that the government is printing many extra booklets these days. Last year I asked him for one about the Shamrock Summit, which I never did