

in law as the honourable senator have suggested that the matter be sent to the Supreme Court. So I suggest that the honourable senator not think that he has the final say in these matters.

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, as far as being partisan, I am certain that Senator Thériault cannot teach me anything. When we debated the Charter in this chamber in 1981 I did not follow the attitude of my party.

Senator Olson: Because they were wrong.

Senator Thériault: That's right.

Senator Flynn: Perhaps my party was wrong, but at least I could see that it was wrong. Senator Thériault has never seen, on any occasion, his party to be wrong. Today we have heard the first speech on that side of the house in favour of the Meech Lake Accord.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Flynn: Your mood is slowly changing. I wonder if we will soon see the majority in this chamber saying that they approve Meech Lake, as I have asked, and as the Liberal Party in the House of Commons did once the amendments were lost. They voted in favour of the main motion, and this house has refused on three occasions to do the same. It is about time that you made the move and did so.

[Translation]

Senator Thériault: Honourable senators, I know Senator Flynn gets upset from time to time.

Senator Flynn: Well, who wouldn't!

Senator Thériault: I can't tell him how to behave because he will never learn!

Senator Flynn: I suppose not.

Senator Thériault: However, if he had bothered to listen, and that is not his strong point—he has a loud voice but he doesn't listen much. That's one of the problems he has! Your leader in the Senate will tell you, and I have always thought and always said, without making long speeches—

Senator Flynn: This is certainly a long one!

Senator Thériault:—that it is important to have an agreement with Quebec and to have Quebec join us in the Constitution. I did not necessarily agree with my colleagues, and if you had bothered to listen you would realize that. You are hardly in a position to criticize, anyway!

Senator Flynn: This is the first time a Liberal francophone talked this way about Meech Lake.

Senator Thériault: You don't listen and you don't know.

Senator Flynn: Name one, Senator Thériault!

[English]

Senator Everett: What was the question?

Senator Flynn: We began with the question of whether the Supreme Court would agree to interpret the meaning of Section 1 of the Constitution Act, 1982, which reads:

[Senator Thériault.]

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Does the honourable senator think that the Supreme Court will agree to give us the exact meaning of that section or, for that matter, of Section 2, dealing with fundamental freedoms and so forth? Senator Everett has made his point and I agree with him, but I had thought that he might provide further argument to Senator Thériault's position.

Senator Thériault: I didn't ask you; I asked Senator Everett.

Senator Flynn: I have asked him to lecture you a little bit.

Senator Thériault: You lecture, but no one listens!

[Translation]

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: I move the adjournment of the debate.

However, should another senator wish to speak he is welcome to do so.

[English]

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, I am sure it is not necessary for me to point out that most of what has gone on for the past 15 minutes is contrary to the rules of the Senate. However, no honourable senator having called for order, I decided not to interfere.

• (1530)

Hon. Charles McElman: Honourable senators, may I suggest that the senator occupying the Chair at the moment continue to follow the advice he has just given.

On motion of Senator Corbin, debate adjourned.

MONETARY POLICY OF BANK OF CANADA

DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. H.A. Olson rose, pursuant to notice of Tuesday, February 20, 1990:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the monetary policy of the Bank of Canada, and to the consequent extremely high interest rates in Canada, which is causing extreme hardship on farmers, fishermen, small businesses and others who have no defense or any way of avoiding the oppressive debt service charges.

He said: Honourable senators, I want to make an appeal to the government today to—I do not know what is going on. I seem to have evoked smiles and mirth on the other side. Seriously, honourable senators, I want to make an appeal to the government today to, first of all, recognize that there is a financial crisis in a large part of the grain-growing area of western Canada, and also to sincerely appeal to the government that it make an announcement of what assistance, if any, it intends to put forward in time to help the people caught in this unfortunate situation.

I want to say at the outset that I am not speaking of great poverty for the whole province of Alberta, because, quite