

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, what I have indicated is that a certain offer was made, I believe, by the government, by Mr. Wilson, to representatives of the parties in the House of Commons and that I would speak to Mr. Wilson with a view to having the same offer made to honourable senators. Of course, I would include in that honourable senators from the government party.

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** Would that be on condition that whatever it was that you divulged to legislators would have to be kept secret by those legislators?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, I would have to ask what conditions those arrangements were made under in the House of Commons.

**Senator Gigantès:** Well those were the arrangements in the House of Commons, and as a former journalist, I remember the trap that they tried to set for journalists by saying, "I will tell you something if you accept that it be off the record." They generally told you something you already knew, and then you could not try to criticize them because they would squeal that you were breaking their confidence. Is this the same confidence trick that you are trying to play?

**Senator Murray:** Let me say that we will do our best not to put the Honourable Senator Gigantès in the way of temptation.

**Senator Gigantès:** You do not have to. It is your existence that tempts me.

## WORLD CONSERVATION

### WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK—ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF BENNETT DAM

**Hon. Colin Kenny:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate concerning Wood Buffalo National Park. As I am sure he is aware, last month, Wood Buffalo, the country's largest national park and home of the largest free-roaming herd of bison in the world, was reviewed by the World Conservation Union and declared a world heritage site in danger.

● (1500)

The World Conservation Union was concerned specifically about the Peace-Athabasca Delta in the middle of the park. Due to British Columbia's Bennett Dam, the delta has almost completely dried up. This delta is one of the largest in the world and provides necessary and ideal wetland for the park's wildlife.

Honourable senators, why is the government allowing this delta to dry up? I ask the Leader of the Government when can we expect enough water to be released from the dam so that the delta will return to its original state? As a supplementary to that, I would like to know what is the status of discussions with B.C. Hydro which I understand are taking place to address this problem.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with regard to both questions, I shall ask my

[Senator Carney.]

cabinet colleague Mr. Charest, the Minister of the Environment, for a report.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I must advise you that this is the last question, according to our rules.

**Senator Haidasz:** Closure, closure.

## NATIONAL FINANCE

### OLYMPIA & YORK DEBT CRISIS

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, will the Leader of the Government in the Senate undertake to make a statement to the Senate as soon as possible on any discussions between the Government of Canada and Olympia & York, and in that statement disclose any proposals that have been worked out between the two parties for the alleviation of the cash flow problem that Olympia & York is supposed to be suffering?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the short answer to the question is in the affirmative.

### OLYMPIA & YORK DEBT CRISIS—GOVERNMENT LOAN GUARANTEES

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** I have a supplementary question, honourable senators. I would ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether it is true that the Minister of Finance will again take money from the taxpayers of Canada to grant loan guarantees to Olympia & York to help them alleviate their \$20-billion debt crisis?

**Senator Murray:** No.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard:** Honourable senators, I would like to give the Leader of the Government advance notice that tomorrow I will ask him a question on government aid—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Hon. senator, according to our rule, that is advance notice. You will ask your question tomorrow. I said it was the last question.

**Hon. Thomas H. Lefebvre:** Follow your own rule!

**The Hon. the Speaker:** I ask you to follow the order, Senator Simard.

**Hon. Senators:** Order.

## DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS THE SENATE

### DELAY IN PRODUCTION OF DEBATES

**Hon. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux:** Honourable senators, you will recall that last Thursday, Senator Molgat asked me about the delay in publishing the *Debates of the Senate*. I undertook to give him a more thorough answer today and I am eager to do so.