

THE SENATE

Thursday, September 24, 1992

The Senate met at 2 p.m., Senator Gérald J. Comeau, Acting Speaker, in the Chair.

Prayers.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

GENERAL ELECTION

NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT IN CURRENT TERM

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): The clock is ticking and, in fact, chiming, thanks to Senator Doody. According to the calculations, if the government of which Senator Murray is a member respects democracy, using his words, Canadians should be casting their ballots within 57 days. We are getting close to the writ period, I think. However, if the present government is cowardly and contemptuous of democracy, the day of reckoning can be put off for 443 days. We will soon know which category they are in.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable members, before asking for leave to move an adjournment motion, let me indicate that it is the hope of this side that on Tuesday, should we adjourn until then, we can dispose of Bills C-55 and C-46, and can then continue debate on Bill C-80.

If there is general agreement on that, or if there is no major objection, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 59(1)(h), I move:

THAT, when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until next Tuesday, September 29, 1992, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I listened carefully to what the Deputy Leader of the Government said concerning Bills C-55 and C-46. I should like to point out that we were prepared to proceed yesterday on both matters. In fact, we had understood C-55 was to proceed yesterday to a vote and that we would have Royal Assent, but for some reason or other the program was changed. We were prepared to proceed yesterday, and we are prepared to proceed today, indeed, if honourable senators so wish. However, if it is to be on Tuesday, then I will have to discuss the matter with my caucus, which will be meeting at

noon on Tuesday, and we will take into consideration what the honourable senator has said.

With respect to Bill C-80, the debate was adjourned in the name of Honourable Senator Gigantès until Tuesday; however, if any honourable senators on the other side wished to participate in the debate, we would certainly be quite happy to hear them and would give unanimous leave for that action provided the adjournment stayed in the name of my honourable friend. I invite my honourable friends opposite to defend their position on this. I would be very happy to hear them, and I think I can assure them of unanimous consent on our side.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Their position is indefensible. That is the problem.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

PROGRESS OF URUGUAY ROUND—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, on behalf of the Honourable Senator Olson, I give notice that on Wednesday next, September 30, 1992, he will call the attention of the Senate to the progress of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations that are currently under way in Geneva.

THE CONSTITUTION

METHOD OF PROMOTION OF REFERENDUM BY GOVERNMENT—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, on behalf of the Honourable Senator Olson, I give notice that on Wednesday next, September 30, 1992, he will call the attention of the Senate to the biased method being used by the Government of Canada to promote the referendum.

QUESTION PERIOD

THE CONSTITUTION

CHARLOTTETOWN ACCORD—STATUS AND NATURE OF TEXT FOR REFERENDUM VOTE

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of the