

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 17, 1976

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that the name of Mr. Balfour had been substituted for that of Mr. Fairweather on the list of members appointed to serve on the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that the name of Mr. Flynn had been substituted for that of Mr. Langlois on the list of members appointed to serve on the Special Joint Committee on Employer-Employee Relations in the Public Service.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Senator Perrault tabled:

Reports on operations under the Regional Development Incentives Act for the months of September and October, 1975, pursuant to section 16 of the said Act, Chapter R-3, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of Report relating to warrants issued under the Official Secrets Act for the year ended December 31, 1975, pursuant to section 16(5) of the said Act, as amended by Chapter 50, Statutes of Canada, 1973-74.

Copies of Report relating to authorizations and interceptions under the Criminal Code for the year ended December 31, 1975, pursuant to section 178.22(4) of the Code, as amended by Chapter 50, Statutes of Canada, 1973-74.

Copies of document setting forth Guidelines concerning acquisitions of interests in oil and gas rights, dated January 5, 1976, pursuant to section 4(2) of the Foreign Investment Review Act, Chapter 46, Statutes of Canada, 1973-74.

Report of operations under the International River Improvements Act for the year ended December 31, 1975, pursuant to section 10 of the said Act, Chapter I-22, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of Order of the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act., dated February 12, 1976, respecting the Irving Pulp and Paper Agreement, pursuant to section 17(3) of the said Act, Chapter 75, Statutes of Canada, 1974-75-76, together with copies of press release relating thereto.

QUARANTINE ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Senator Perrault presented Bill S-31, to amend the Quarantine Act.

Bill read first time.

Senator Perrault moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

THE PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA WITH CABINET MINISTERS—QUESTION

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, may I inquire of the Leader of the Government as to whether the visit of the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues of the cabinet, including the Leader of the Government in the Senate, to British Columbia last week was worth depriving the Senate of the presence of the government leader?

Senator Perrault: It is for honourable senators to make that determination and for history to pass judgment on the visit—if history is interested. I do want to say that the working visit of the Prime Minister and other ministers to Western Canada, specifically in this instance to British Columbia, is a practice which I heartily commend. My belief is that perhaps parliamentarians spend too much time in Parliament in what is, at times, the unreal atmosphere which exists here.

Senator Flynn: You do not speak of the Senate!

Senator Perrault: May I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that perhaps, at times, we can make just as great a contribution to the welfare of the people of this country by meeting with them and discussing their problems as we can by deliberating and enacting legislation here.

It is my hope that in the years to come it will be possible for not only this cabinet but other cabinets to frequently hold meetings in various parts of the country. The transportation and communications facilities which exist today make entirely feasible this very worthwhile practice.

To understand the many problems which exist all over the country, I believe members of Parliament have to move around the country. They have to see the problems firsthand and to talk to those involved, whether they be British