

in that schedule. A new Prime Minister would have various options, including prorogation and dissolution.

Is it the intention of the government to proceed to Royal Assent on the bill to give legislative effect to the NAFTA prior to the Progressive Conservative leadership convention?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, again my honourable friend is getting very considerably ahead of himself in asking about Royal Assent for a bill that has just been tabled in the House of Commons.

However, it gives me the opportunity to say, in response to the comment of the Leader of the Opposition a few moments ago to the effect that the government does not know what to do with NAFTA, that the bill has been tabled in the House of Commons. We will be proceeding to second reading of that bill and referral to committee in a short time.

Indeed, as I suggested earlier, and I intend to consult colleagues on this side about the matter, in order to expedite the process I should like at least to consider the prospect of a pre-study of that bill in this place.

**Senator Stewart:** The suggestion for a pre-study seems to imply that the bill will be carried forward to Royal Assent in this session. Does the Leader of the Government intend to convey that impression?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, we do not bring legislation in unless we intend to see that legislation through to Royal Assent in the session in which it is presented. Our intention at the moment is to see the legislation through.

## NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

### SOLICITATION OF CANADIAN BUSINESS TO RELOCATE IN MEXICO—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault:** Honourable senators, is the Leader of the Government in the Senate aware of the fact that a Mr. Goncalves, who is said to be operating out of an office in Toronto, is actively soliciting Canadian businesses and attempting to entice them to relocate in Mexico? His main sales argument is, "Save \$35,000 a year on your direct employee costs by moving to friendly, happy Mexico, where the workers demand far fewer social benefits."

Is the Leader of the Government in the Senate aware of the fact that reports have been filtering out of that country into Canada that women textile workers have had their wages reduced to 40 cents an hour in recent months? Is NAFTA the kind of economic alliance that will really enhance human rights either in Canada or in Mexico?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, there are two or three questions involved there. If our experience with the FTA is any illustration of

[ Senator Stewart ]

what will happen with NAFTA, there will be a very large increase in investment in Canada as a result.

**Senator Frith:** And a loss of jobs.

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, I would ask the Leader of the Government to provide specific replies to the questions I have asked, and to spare us this fobbing-off routine which he is so fond of pursuing.

**Senator Frith:** It is not a bad answer. He told us that we would have the same loss of jobs and the same downturn in the economy with NAFTA as we have had with the FTA.

## THE ECONOMY

### MUNICIPALITIES—EFFECT OF FEDERAL FREEZE ON GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

**Hon. Peter Bosa:** Honourable senators, I wish to thank the Leader of the Government in the Senate for answering a question I put to him on February 23 relating to grants in lieu of taxes to municipalities. He was kind enough to provide us with some statistical information showing the increases in grants that took place from 1986 to 1993.

Could he now ask his officials whether those grants correspond to the assessment of the buildings and properties that the federal government owns? As you know, the mill rate for municipal taxes is based on the total assessment of properties. That would be a vast calculation to make, but it would serve the purpose if the calculation were confined to the assessment of just the Pearson International Airport and one or two other buildings in the City of Toronto that would show us whether these grants are equal to the total of the mill rate times the assessment of those properties.

• (1400)

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I would have to make inquiries about that. I rather doubt that those payments made by the government in lieu of taxes are based on municipal assessments.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### FUTURE OF CANADIAN MAGAZINE INDUSTRY—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**Hon. Keith Davey:** I would ask the Leader of the Government again about the situation with *Sports Illustrated*. As I am sure the Leader is aware, Time Life is trying to persuade Canadians that *Sports Illustrated* is a Canadian publication. It is not, of course. It is an American publication.

The matter has been going on week after week. Can you give us the current state of play, because I think the time is at hand when Time Life will probably make a decision on its own. Can you inform us of precisely where we stand?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I am hoping that some announcement