

ROYAL ASSENT**NOTICE**

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the following communication had been received:

RIDEAU HALL

March 30, 1993.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable John Major, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 30th day of March, 1993, at 5:45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Larocque
Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate

Ottawa

**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES RESTRAINT BILL,
1993 NO. 2**

MOTION TO ALLOCATE TIME ADOPTED

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government), pursuant to notice of March 29, 1993, moved:

THAT pursuant to the provisions of rule 40, in relation to Bill C-113, an act to provide for government expenditure restraint, not more than six further hours of debate be allotted to the consideration of the said bill at the second reading stage;

THAT when the debate comes to an end or when the time provided for the consideration of the second reading stage of the said bill has expired, the Speaker shall interrupt, if required, any proceedings then before the Senate and put forthwith and successively every question necessary to dispose of the said stage of the said bill;

THAT any recorded vote or votes on the said questions shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of rule 40(4).

He said: Honourable senators, the provisions of Bill C-113 were announced in the economic statement given by the Minister of Finance last December. The bill itself was given first and second readings in the House of Commons in February, went to a legislative committee and finally passed last week.

The government is anxious to have this bill decided on as soon as possible, while allowing ample time for consideration here and in committee, as it will, if passed, have a major impact on the government's financial situation in the fiscal year beginning Thursday, and in later years, as explained yesterday by its sponsor, Senator Bolduc.

Added to this sense of urgency is the Easter break, which is rapidly approaching. While we unfortunately are unable to schedule firm dates for our deliberations, unlike the House of Commons, we do try to give an indication far enough ahead of time to allow senators to adjust their own schedules accordingly. Both caucuses have been informed that an adjournment no later than the middle of next week is planned with a return the week of April 25.

I hasten to say that I do not want to give the impression that senators should decide the progress of legislation to meet vague adjournment dates, but on the other hand the bill is a major priority for the government. Undue delay in its implementation would be costly.

Senators on both sides are very familiar with its more contentious provisions, as Senator Thériault demonstrated yesterday, and another six hours of debate will certainly give ample time for various views to be expressed before sending the bill to committee. I therefore urge approval of this motion.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I cannot find anything good to say about this motion, with perhaps the one small exception that there seems to be a change in the timing that my honourable friend is prepared to give us, because, if I read the debates of yesterday correctly, it states six hours and I think the motion today read eight hours. Apparently, he has had a slight change of heart overnight and is prepared to give another two hours.

• (1450)