

house is not the fault of this house. It is the fault of the electorate of Canada. The reason we had so many ministers on this side of the house in the former government is that that government had no representation in three of our provinces. Therefore, it was a reasonable proposition, and one which I supported, that there be cabinet representation in the Senate, thus taking care of that deficiency.

But the electorate of Canada has taken care of that. We are now back to the usual position in the Senate where the number of cabinet ministers is limited. In fact, there have been occasions when there has been none in the Senate. But it is considered advisable that there be at least one.

I do not take kindly to my honourable friend's suggestion that I do not answer questions. I answer questions where I have information. Where I do not have information and it is an important matter—and I think I must be allowed to look at it from that point of view—I get the information.

But when I am presented with non-parliamentary questions—and most of my honourable friend's questions this afternoon have been, to the extent that he has asked me to confirm information or figures provided by outside bodies, or comment on what someone else outside Parliament has said—it is not part of my job to answer those questions. That is not part of my job; it is not part of Question Period.

My honourable friend, I think, is intelligent enough and sufficiently au fait with the workings of Parliament to know that that is the case.

I would hope that he and I could leave our discussion at this point, because I assure him that he is not going to get much further with me.

I see that one other friend of mine across the way, Senator Stollery, who asked me an interesting question the other day—a question which I could not answer at that time—seems to want to rise to put a question. It may even be the same question, and this time I have the answer.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Senator Stollery—

Senator Gigantès: Would the Honourable Leader of the Government please at least answer those questions where I asked him to ask officials of the government to obtain information on certain issues, issues that are being touched upon and discussed publicly, and on which we, the members in this house, even if it is only me, want some answers?

Senator Frith: That is quite legitimate.

TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGETARY PROVISIONS

Hon. Peter A. Stollery: Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate and relates to the budget. I am not going to ask the Leader of the Government for specific information.

From listening to the Minister of National Health and Welfare speaking in the other place, there would appear to be two budgets: there is the budget that comes into effect on the night that the budget was put before Parliament, the immediate budgetary effects; and then there are the effects which are

[Senator Roblin.]

the result of bills to be put before Parliament at a later date. I had not understood that in fact there are two quite separate budgets.

Given the rules of secrecy and given the tradition of putting budgets before Parliament, have we got to the situation now where we have, in effect, two quite separate financial presentations being made to Parliament?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I have not heard the statement of my colleague in the other house, so it is difficult to comment on it. As far as I am concerned, as a matter of principle, there is one budget.

Senator Stollery: There are a number of measures which will require parliamentary approval, with that approval coming by way of approval of bills, and those bills we will be seeing some time in the fall.

My question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate is: Given his indication in answers given earlier today that the question of the partial de-indexing of old age pensions is an issue that has not yet been quite decided, may that principle also be applied to the various other measures put before Parliament under the name of the budget on budget day? In other words, may we also anticipate changes in the government's attitude to the capital gains provision and many of the other measures which, presumably, we will see before us in a series of bills?

● (1500)

Senator Roblin: There are no changes in those respects that I am aware of at the present time, but I would point out to my honourable friend that sometimes the budgetary process has been a lengthy one, indeed. In fact, during the previous administration, I can recall instances where budgetary legislation was not produced, and certainly not acted upon, until 12 or 18 months after the original budget, and that we were in another financial year altogether before the budgetary measures were dealt with by Parliament. In the course of that 12 to 18 months, very considerable changes—in fact, dramatic changes—were made in the nature of the legislation.

I am not saying that that is going to happen this time, because I have no information that it is. I simply tell my honourable friend that that is the way the thing has been done in the past. It illustrates the nature of the parliamentary process.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—IMPACT OF MEASURES

Hon. Charles McElman: Honourable senators, I direct my question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. As he is probably aware, the Council of Maritime Premiers has been meeting in Prince Edward Island this week. Premier Lee is the chairman and spokesman of the Council at this time.

On Tuesday, June 11, it was reported in the *Telegraph-Journal* of Saint John that, in reference to the budget of the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Michael Wilson, Premier Lee said: