

**Senator Roblin:** I am going to take my honourable friend's advice and hope that my colleague will deal with one issue at a time.

**Senator Argue:** Then, I shall ask a supplementary question. Are there steps being taken today, and for the future, to make Canadian views known on the seriousness of the undertaking by the United States to provide what amounts to a certain proportion of their export wheat sales as a gift?

**Senator Roblin:** My colleague, the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, is very conscious of this situation and is developing policy in the matter.

### INDUSTRY

#### CANADIAN PORCELAIN COMPANY—OFFER TO PURCHASE BY EMPLOYEE CO-OPERATIVE—GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It is a question I asked on May 30 last and one which relates to the hope and the initiative of workers in Hamilton to form a co-operative for the purpose of buying out the Canadian Porcelain Company.

The Leader of the Government at that time expressed sympathy but said that he did not think that there was yet a definitive answer available. I know that the member for Hamilton East, Sheila Copps, has taken an interest in this question. It has been big news, as one would expect, in the *Hamilton Spectator*, and John Flanders, a correspondent in Ottawa, has certainly been instrumental in keeping this issue alive in the Hamilton area.

There was a delegation of those co-operative workers in Ottawa a few days ago, at which time they met—

**Hon. David Walker:** What is my friend's question? He goes on and makes orations by the hour.

You know that you can only ask a short question, and it has to be appropriate, and then you have to sit down. This isn't the time for a speech—

**Senator Olson:** Just like Senator Flynn used to make!

**Senator Argue:** I guess the rules of the Senate apply equally to all senators. I am laying the groundwork; I am painting the background. I am doing what everybody has been doing in this Senate since I came here 18 years ago. I do not expect that they are going to stop doing it because of my honourable friend's intervention now, or in the future.

**Senator Walker:** Don't be a smart aleck.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Argue:** I am not being a smart aleck.

**Senator Walker:** You have no business making all of these little remarks. You should ask your question, instead of making an oration. We are sick and tired of listening to you people over there.

**An Hon. Senator:** If you don't like it, get out.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Argue:** They don't have to be in office very long before they become really arrogant and "sick and tired" of the parliamentary process of listening to senators.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Argue:** Well, I am not sick and tired of listening to my honourable friend. He has the right to interject. He has the right to his points of order—even if they are fallacious.

**Senator Walker:** This is another oration. Could we, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, have my learned friend from the west keep within the limits? He should ask his question and make it plain, as is absolutely clear in the rules.

Just do it. That is the point of order.

**Senator Argue:** Well, what we have just heard, honourable senators, certainly was not an oration. But I will not take it up from there. I will go back to painting the background in terms of the importance of this issue, not only to Hamilton, not only to those workers, but to Canadians all across this country in terms of the important principle at stake, namely, whether the government, in respect of something on which it can take action, will take action in the interests of Canadians.

My question is: Has the government, through FIRA or any other process it might wish to use, come down on the side of the workers' co-operative in its efforts to buy out the Canadian Porcelain Company, thus maintaining it as a Canadian company operating in Hamilton in the interests of Canadians?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** In the interests of harmony in the Senate, I will make my friend a proposition, and it is that if he gives me a short question, I will give him a short answer.

The short answer to his question is that the situation has not changed: the matter is under consideration.

**Senator Argue:** In reading the press reports, it is clear to me that the minister in charge, Mr. Sinclair Stevens, holds out very little hope for this employee co-operative. He was questioned at length on it, and he said that while he considered it a good cause and he was in fact on the side of the employees, he didn't hold out very much hope.

Do I take it from the government leader's answer—and I am prepared to so take it—that no decision has been made; that the question is still open and those workers at least have a chance?

**Senator Roblin:** We will do our very best to decide this issue—which is not yet decided—on the merits of the case, and among the merits, as far as I am concerned, is the fact that this is a group of Canadian workers that has taken a very commendable initiative. Whether it is good enough in this instance, I cannot tell; but I can assure my friend that we will do our best to be fair.

**Senator Argue:** Well, I want to say—and I hope this will be considered rather non-partisan—that I appreciate that answer. The principle is a very important one. If the government could find it possible—and I hope it can—to come down on the side