

cessful career. I wanted to recall these few memories and thank my colleague for putting up with me and letting me benefit from his experience.

I wish him a long life, and may he go on to enjoy his leisure time, remain as enthusiastic as he has always been, and be as serene as he always was whenever I sat next to him.

● (1420)

[English]

Hon. Henry D. Hicks: Honourable senators, this is certainly enough—indeed, I think too much—but I do appreciate the generosity of the remarks that have been made by those who have referred to my career, or, as Senator MacEachen put it, my multitude of careers.

I have enjoyed my life tremendously, not the least of which the years that I have spent in this chamber. The importance of the Senate has always been evident to me, perhaps to a degree greater than to some Canadians who do not understand—if I may be smart for a minute or two—the Constitution of Canada the way I have always tried to from the time that I was a student at Mount Allison University, which, as Senator Macquarrie reminded me, is where I started my educational career.

I think life has been very good to me in the opportunities that have been given to me in several different fields. I used to be a little smart-alecky, I suppose, about that. I pointed out that I first went away to Mount Allison University and took a respectable degree with honours in chemistry. Subsequently, I went to another university and deteriorated from a respectable scientist to a lawyer. Then, after five and a half years as an artillery officer, I was elected to the Nova Scotia legislature and I became a politician and a minister. When I was defeated in that capacity by the Honourable Robert Stanfield I went to Dalhousie University, but not as an academic, Senator Macquarrie, only as an academic administrator. I am sure you know they are the lowest creatures on the academic totem pole. Finally, in 1972 I was summoned to the Senate of Canada.

Honourable senators, my life and career has been one long decline—and I have enjoyed every bit of it. I shall be sorry to leave you and will miss this chamber, but I hope that I shall be able to continue to maintain the friendships that I have made here and may participate, from time to time, in lively arguments and debates with my colleagues now in this chamber on both sides of the house, because I have not regarded my participation in the Senate as too partisan. I am pleased to say that I feel this attitude seems to prevail in this chamber in a very satisfactory manner.

Thank you for your good wishes and for all of your too generous tributes to me. I shall look forward to seeing more of you in the years ahead.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

[Senator Riell.]

[Translation]

PRIVATE BILL

DESJARDINS MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY—FIRST READING

Hon. Roch Bolduc presented Bill S-15, an Act to amend the Act of incorporation of Desjardins Mutual Life Assurance Company.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read a second time?

On motion of Senator Bolduc, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday, March 27, 1990.

● (1430)

[English]

THE BUDGET, 1990

STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next I will call the attention of the Senate to the Budget Statement made by the Minister of Finance on February 20.

There is on the order paper an inquiry that I launched on the April, 1989 budget. Any senator who wants to deal with that inquiry can do so; it is still there. But I am going to put this inquiry down for the budget of yesterday.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I should like to put the adjournment motion forward, but before I do so perhaps it is best that I ask for leave to revert later to Notices of Motions. I want to make absolutely certain that Bill C-21 has sufficient time to be dealt with today. If there were a chance that it might need attention tomorrow, I would be reluctant to move the adjournment motion now. Perhaps it would be best, then, if I ask leave to revert to Notices of Motions.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

QUESTION PERIOD

THE BUDGET, 1990

BRITISH COLUMBIA—CANCELLATION OF POLAR 8 ICEBREAKER CONTRACT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, I rise this afternoon more with a feeling of sadness than anger. As far as British Columbia is concerned, yesterday can only be described as a day of infamy. By way of a prelude to my question to the Leader of the Government, may I say that for two successive elections the Conservative Party has stated that