

**Senator Roblin:** I really have no means of reading the minds of the international community. I cannot pretend to know what particular problems they perceive. But I think it would be advantageous, in any case, to let them know our point of view, and to give them as much detail as they require, in order that they may see the basis on which our judgments are formed. One must hope that that will strike a responsive chord with respect to them.

How long these matters take to work through is anyone's guess. It depends which financial expertise you read. I saw one yesterday that said it took two weeks for the information to filter through. I have no means of knowing whether or not that is the case. All I know is that we have to go on presenting our case in order to see that the Canadian dollar receives the support it deserves.

**Senator MacEachen:** I did not have in mind what the international financial community was bothered about. I had in mind the statement of the Minister of Finance, who said that the reason was lack of knowledge in the financial community, that they had to read in order to understand. Since the Leader of the Government has repeated the same point, I now ask whether the government proposes to take any particular action internationally in order to ensure that the good points—which up to the present have escaped the international financiers—are brought to their attention? Is there any program internationally to ensure that the good points are brought home to those who are now treating the Canadian dollar so roughly?

**Senator Roblin:** I believe that is the case.

**Senator MacEachen:** That is interesting. What is the program that is being undertaken?

**Senator Roblin:** In reply to one of the questions asked by Senator Sinclair, I pointed out that there was an effort being made by members of the government and by members of the Department of Finance to get in touch with influential people in the financial community who deal with foreign exchange and other matters, in order to develop the very points to which my honourable friend is referring.

**Senator MacEachen:** In the meantime, is the government or the Bank of Canada taking any action to support the Canadian dollar at the present time? Is it a fact, as is now commonly alleged, that the government found it necessary to enter the foreign exchange market yesterday and today in order to shore up the value of the Canadian dollar?

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, I will make an inquiry and if the information can be given out, I will provide it for my honourable friend.

## THE BUDGET

### FARM CREDIT LOAN PROVISIONS—IMPACT ON FARMERS

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I wish to direct a question to the Leader of the Government. Can he tell us how the 6 per cent rate for a Farm Credit mortgage loan will work

[Senator MacEachen.]

for a mortgagee who has a substantial loan and who qualifies by having equity of under 40 per cent? Can he give us any information on what will be done about the total obligation that the farmer has to the Farm Credit Corporation?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I expect that quite shortly the Minister of Agriculture will be making a full statement on how this scheme will work. When that information is available, I will provide it for my honourable friend.

**Senator Argue:** I can appreciate that. Does the Leader of the Government know whether or not there is any adjustment downward of the total amount owing by any individual farmer to the Farm Credit Corporation? Is there an element of debt reduction, or is there just a rescheduling of the total amount at a lower rate of interest, and the extra amount will be paid at a later date? It is a simple question, and I do not know the answer.

**Senator Roblin:** I do not intend to scoop my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture. He will make the statement, not me.

**Senator Argue:** I am rather disappointed that that assurance cannot be given. I will say—and I suppose the record can be seen by the Minister of Agriculture—that if what they are doing is reducing the rate that a farmer has to pay in a given year, only to have it paid at a later date, and in the meantime index it to the commodities, then all the government is doing in an official way is postponing temporarily the number of farmers going under. I thought this was a rescue operation, but it looks to me as though a lot of it is just plain window dressing.

**Senator Roblin:** When the statement is made, my honourable friend can favour us with opinions on the matter. I do not agree with his observation that it is window dressing.

**Senator Argue:** I hope that you are right and that I am wrong.

## STATUS OF WOMEN

### ROLE IN CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, on the occasion of International Women's Week and the tabling earlier today in the other place of the document "Toward Equality" by the Minister of Justice, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government to explain the government's decision to deny the opportunity for women seeking a fighting role in the Canadian Armed Forces.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, when the statement is discussed in the other house, I believe further comment will be made with respect to that. I would ask my honourable friend to wait until that statement is made, and I can then furnish him with a copy.

**Senator Haidasz:** As a supplementary, in connection with the minister's statement that mandatory retirement is not now an absolute rule in Canada, I should like to ask how the change affects the members of the Senate.