

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 16, 1982

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER TABLED

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table the Report of the Commissioner of Official Languages for the calendar year 1981, pursuant to section 34(2) of the Official Languages Act, Chapter O-2, R.S.C., 1970.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, by way of informal notice, I believe that later this evening we will have a report from the Deputy Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science on Bill C-78, to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code.

The report is not quite ready at this moment, so I warn you that I may be asking for leave to revert to Reports of Committees later this evening.

TAXATION AND BORROWING AUTHORITY

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STUDY

Hon. Salter A. Hayden: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), I move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce be authorized to examine and consider the subject matter of Bill C-93, intituled: "An Act to amend the statute law relating to certain taxes and to provide other authority for the raising of funds," or any matter relating thereto, in advance of the said bill coming before the Senate.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I should like to ask the mover of the motion to explain the reasons for his asking that the committee be authorized to examine and consider the subject matter of the bill.

I have been trying to get a copy of this bill. Apparently it is a recent one.

Senator Hayden: A similar bill was before the Senate earlier, but it did not cover the same items, of course. That bill dealt with excise taxes, certain taxes in relation to pipeline gas, et cetera.

This bill requires detailed study. Therefore, I think that should be done as soon as possible so that we can intelligently consider the scope of the bill when it finally comes before the Senate.

Senator Flynn: I understand it is Bill C-93.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Yes.

Senator Flynn: I have not been able to find a copy of it. If a pre-study is being requested only because the committee has nothing to do, I do not think that is a valid reason.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): It is perfectly valid.

Senator Flynn: I understand it has been the practice of the committee to pre-study tax bills, but I cannot understand what the urgency is in this case.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I can understand why Senator Flynn asks why the committee wants a pre-study, if he has not had a chance to read the bill, so I will certainly undertake to see that he gets a copy of it. I do not know why it is not included in our material because it has been introduced in the other place.

Senator Flynn: It was one of the last ones introduced.

Senator Frith: Yes, I think it was.

Hon. G. I. Smith: What is the number of the bill?

Senator Frith: It is Bill C-93. Its main title, or the first title you see on it, is "Borrowing Authority" and that would make one think that it should go to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. But it has some excise tax and other tax implications that make it fall, at least its principal parts, within that part of rule 45 concerning the jurisdiction of the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee.

If Senator Flynn feels that he wants further assurance about the advisability of pre-study, I suggest that he speak to the chairman about when that pre-study should start. All we really want now is for the committee to have the authority it requests.

Senator Flynn: The question I was worried about is exactly what the deputy leader mentioned, that being the fact that we will be dealing with borrowing authority and taxes at the same