

Senator Everett: Honourable senators, I sincerely disagree with the approach of Senator Hays. If I were to take out a gun and shoot him I would have to face the fact that I might go to jail for doing it. Similarly, if an act or an agency—as in the case of this agency—operates to deter the occurrence, then I suggest to you that it is operating quite satisfactorily.

We are talking about a time in which we experienced the worst oil crisis in history. In fact, it was probably worse than anything that we will have in the future, although one cannot tell that. Nevertheless, it was a catastrophic oil shortage situation. The deterrence that was created by the existence of the agency caused other countries to make up the shortfall so that the 7 per cent threshold would not be triggered. That indicates that the process of the agency does work. I would not write it off, as has become the vogue for those who are opposed to the energy-sharing arrangements under the Free Trade Agreement.

Senator Hays: If I have moved Senator Everett to allusions of violence against me, I should make a comment in response to his statement.

I do not know that there is any evidence that it was the IEA that moved the solution that we actually followed. I will leave it at that.

Senator Everett: Then I will leave it on the point that, while there was no evidence that the agency was involved, there certainly was no evidence that it was not involved.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

Hon. John B. Stewart, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a), moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs have power to sit at four o'clock in the afternoon today, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that Rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: If honourable senators will give me leave, I will say a word or two in explanation.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is leave granted?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Stewart: Honourable senators, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is resuming, in 1990, its work on monitoring the Free Trade Agreement with the United States of America. We have our program set for the next month or so and we are anxious that we not miss any time, since that might well disrupt the presentation of our report to the Senate some time late in February. That is why we should like to be sure that we can go ahead with our meeting this afternoon at four o'clock, even though the Senate may be sitting at that hour.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

[Senator Hays.]

Hon. Senators: Agreed.
Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, 13th of February, 1990, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

If leave is granted, I would like to give a brief explanation.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, you are aware from looking at the order paper that there is nothing before us except those bills listed for third reading today, which, I hope, will be dealt with in order that we may have Royal Assent later this afternoon. I believe it is scheduled for five o'clock. There are four bills before committees. Bill C-21, the Unemployment Insurance Bill, is before the special committee. Bill C-28, the Income Tax Bill, is before the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee. In the event these two bills should be reported, we would be prepared to come back and deal with them. It is our hope that the committees can find it possible to do so. If the committees do not report back before February 13, however, we will have nothing on the order paper to deal with and there will be no point in our being here.

Other committee meetings to deal with other matters of Senate business are scheduled as well, including the subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee in its study of Canadian financial institutions. The Internal Economy Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday morning, as is the Joint Committee on the Scrutiny of Regulations. Some of the special committees are meeting as well.

Therefore, honourable senators, I ask for your support in passing the adjournment motion, with the proviso that we be prepared to come back in the event we are needed.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

THE CONSTITUTION

MEECH LAKE ACCORD—PARALLEL ACCORD—STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS AND PROVINCIAL PREMIERS AND TERRITORIAL LEADERS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I know that the Leader of the Govern-