

On motion of Senator Doody, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. William J. Petten (Acting Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate, and notwithstanding rule 58(1)(h), I move:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 1994, at 1:30 p.m.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Petten: Honourable senators, we will be sitting at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in order to give committees more time to conduct their business. I also wish to inform honourable senators that tomorrow at the same time, I will have more information about further sittings of the Senate and when we hope to adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE EMPOWERED TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC COVERAGE OF MEETING

Hon. Donald H. Oliver, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 58(1)(f), moved:

That the Senate do empower the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications to permit coverage by the electronic media of its public meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 1994, for the purpose of hearing the Honourable John Manley, P.C., the Minister of Industry, with the least possible disruption of the hearing.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IN CANADA

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. William M. Kelly: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, December 8, 1994, I will call the attention of the Senate to the way in which Canadians are being encouraged to celebrate Christmas.

QUESTION PERIOD

TRANSPORT

ATLANTIC REGION FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM— REQUEST FOR IMPACT ANALYSIS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Brenda M. Robertson: Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. In view of the fact that a large number of manufacturers and producers in Atlantic Canada rely on markets in Central and Western Canada for a major proportion of their sales — an Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission survey shows that two-thirds of firms selling to central or western markets are dependent on those markets for more than 25 per cent of their total sales — and in view of reports that the federal government is considering cutting or eliminating the Atlantic Region Freight Assistance Program which is essential, especially on the westbound traffic from the Atlantic region, to providing a reasonably level playing field to Atlantic Canada businesses that export from the region and employ a large number of people; and, in particular, in view of Transport Canada's report that the Atlantic Region Freight Assistance Program is abused, will the Leader of the Government make representations to her cabinet colleague the Minister of Transport urging that an impact analysis of the importance of the Atlantic Region Freight Assistance Program to the region's manufacturers and producers be undertaken, and, further, that the analysis involve direct consultation with stakeholders so that, together, government and stakeholders may develop ways to improve the program, not devastate it; a program which is vital to the Atlantic region in terms of jobs and prosperity?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I thank Senator Robertson for her question. Her comments are far more eloquent than I could convey, so I will ensure that the minister receives a transcript of what has been said here today.

PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT— IMPLICATIONS OF ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Ron Ghitter: Honourable senators, as Senator Olson stated earlier this afternoon, I have great concern with respect to some of the material I read in the media and whether or not to believe what I read.

• (1430)

In the past few days, *The Globe and Mail* has run a series of articles in which there have been suggestions that our Prime Minister, as a lawyer in private life, gave legal advice when sought in relation to the privatization of the Pearson airport. I should like to provide an opportunity to the Honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate to advise us whether or not it is true that the Honourable Mr. Chrétien did, at that time, give legal advice in that regard.