

### REQUESTS FOR ANSWERS

**Hon. Jean Le Moyne:** Honourable senators, I have a question or, rather, a respectful reminder for the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Before an august body such as this one recesses for the summer, I imagine that no dust should be left in any corner. On March 19, 1985, the honourable Leader of the Government took as notice two questions of mine regarding the appropriateness of apologies from the government, first, to Her Excellency the Governor General, and, second, to Her Majesty the Queen for the slight offered to Madame Sauvé on the occasion of the Quebec summit. I trust my honourable friend will not leave these questions unanswered.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I will not surprise my honourable friend by agreeing with his premise that a slight was offered to Her Excellency the Governor General; that is not the position of the government.

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. On March 19, as shown at page 658 of the *Debates of the Senate*, I asked the Leader of the Government to let me know whether the leader of the NDP had been invited to the gala performance in Quebec City during the Canada-U.S. summit. As yet, I have not received an answer.

**Senator Roblin:** I am sure we will bend every nerve to answer that important question.

**Senator Flynn:** Extremely important.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, while the Leader of the Government has broom in hand, I should like him to go after dust in some other corners, too: On April 30, in regard to CN, I asked whether the government had requested the resignation of the board and, if so, why. I asked if the resignations had been forthcoming and whether anyone had been approached to be appointed if resignations were received.

My honourable friend could conceivably think that question is dépassée by reason of some changes that were made. However, I assure him I would still like an answer to that question.

On June 19, I asked if the Leader of the Government would ask the Solicitor General whether or not Corporal Wood, who has now been appointed to the Canadian Pension Commission, used to be an informer for Mr. MacKay. I also hope that question will not gather dust over the summer.

**Senator Roblin:** Although "proud" may not be the right word, I think I must declare myself satisfied that the government has, with due diligence, pursued questions which I myself was not able to answer on the occasions they were posed. We have provided a very large percentage of answers. I think our record will bear examination.

However, I am not at all unwilling to redouble my efforts, and if there is any way in which I can get answers to outstanding questions before the end of this week, I will do so.

[Senator Roblin.]

**Senator Frith:** On the question of his satisfaction in dealing with questions, perhaps the Leader of the Government will permit me to say—and, as I have mentioned before, this applies to all of us, I am sure—I recall the notes in the navy called "flimsies." The commanding officer would make a comment on these flimsies as to how he felt someone had behaved under his command. I saw one which said, "Conducted himself, at all times, to his own entire satisfaction."

**Senator Roblin:** I do not know whether it is fair to ask my honourable friend, but was that flimsy on his record?

**Hon. Lorna Marsden:** I should also like to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

On March 12, I asked when the Order in Council for the 1986 census would be tabled. This is not a trivial question. Research projects have been planned on the basis of the data which will emerge from that census. Although we are reassured on an informal basis by officials that the projects will be roughly similar to those planned by the previous government, I think many people are waiting for that Order in Council, and we would be grateful if this could be tabled before Parliament.

**Senator Roblin:** Since the whole matter is under consideration, I can give my honourable friend no assurance that it will be decided this week.

**Hon. Charles McElman:** Honourable senators, I should like to join with the Leader of the Government in the Senate in his congratulations regarding what the government has done in answering questions. Up to this point, they have done quite a good job.

In light of his co-operative stance today, I would ask the Leader of the Government, if, when he makes these inquiries, he will remember my question of June 13 in which I asked him, after quoting from the press some remarks about the Council of Maritime Premiers, if they had made representation directly to the government for changes in the budget or, as Senator Doody would say, the "boojit."

**Senator Doody:** Isn't that correct?

**Senator McElman:** I would also ask him whether the Council of Maritime Premiers has also made its views known to the government with respect to de-indexing, as it stated it was going to do.

My question of June 13 is found at page 1021 of the *Debates of the Senate*.

I asked another question on March 19, which is found at page 657 of the *Debates of the Senate*, inquiring as to the uses of the Great Seal and by whom it could or should be used.

**Senator Roblin:** I do not recall the Great Seal question. I am surprised I have not answered that.

**Senator MacEachen:** It is not the grey seal; it is the Great Seal.

**Senator McElman:** That is the Great Seal of Canada.

**Senator Roblin:** In that office in my department, where all the thinking is done—and it is not my own office—a list of all these questions is kept. A note is taken as to who asked them