

THE SENATE

Tuesday, June 18, 1985

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

OLD AGE SECURITY

REPORT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-26 Tabled

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, tabled the following report:

Tuesday, June 18, 1985

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology has the honour to present its

SECOND REPORT

Your Committee, to which was referred the subject-matter of the Bill C-26, intituled: "An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act", has, in obedience to the Order of Reference of Wednesday, June 12, 1985, examined and considered the said subject-matter and now reports that it recommends that the said Bill, when examined by the Senate, be favourably considered.

Respectfully submitted,

M. LORNE BONNELL
Deputy Chairman

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I should like to consult with the house about the business for the remainder of the week. An inquiry was brought to my notice, from one of my honourable friends on the other side of the house, as to whether or not we would be sitting on Friday.

I have consulted with my colleague, the house leader, who tells me that on the basis of the business now before him, it may not be necessary for us to sit on Friday. With respect to those bills now before us, I understand that there is general agreement that they will be proceeded with in time to have Royal Assent on Thursday afternoon. If that is so, then it will be unnecessary for us to sit on Friday.

However, I must issue the caveat that if the other place surprises us by sending us bills that at the present time we do not expect, then we may have to review the situation. But in view of the arrangements that have to be made, I thought that honourable senators might like to know the lie of the land.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): In order to be sure that there is no misunderstanding, one bill for which we would hope to receive Royal Assent is Bill C-15, the Investment Canada bill. The interventions to be made on this side of the chamber indicate that the bill will probably receive third reading this week, in time for Royal Assent on Thursday. There is almost equal hope with reference to the appropriation bill. However, with regard to that particular bill, I have to consult further with our spokesman, Senator Stewart. I believe it is reasonable to assume that we will be able to deal with those two items of legislation, and if we are able to deal with any uncontroversial bills that are on our order paper, they too can be ready to receive Royal Assent.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I certainly appreciate the comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and with reference to Bill C-15 he is absolutely right. I would not want to leave the Senate with the impression that the appropriation bill is not a matter of urgency. If we do not get the appropriation bill through before the end of this week, then they will have to go to extreme lengths to get funding for various matters of concern for the Government of Canada, namely, the payment of their ongoing expenses. Therefore, it is a matter of practical necessity that we get the appropriation bill through this week before we adjourn.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

REQUESTS FOR ANSWERS

Hon. H. A. Olson: Honourable senators, I want to raise a question with the Leader of the Government, a question which I asked him on May 28 concerning the sugar-beet and the sugar-processing plants keeping their factories in a state of capability to deal with future crops. I do not need the answer today or tomorrow, but I certainly do need it next week. For the benefit of those producers who are now, of course, not going to plant a crop this year, I expect it would be helpful for them to know before we adjourn for the summer whether or not there is a possibility of those factories being reactivated in the future.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have not forgotten my honourable friend's question by any means, but I am not entirely in control of the answers. I have to wait until the companies themselves give us their