

after that would not be part of the proceedings. That means that any senator who spoke would still be entitled to speak on third reading. That is my understanding of the situation.

Senator Frith: On either side.

Senator Molgat: I presume that is the understanding on the other side. I think we have made it clear all the way along that we were not unduly delaying anything. What we did do is say, let's follow the rules. When we did not give leave, it was because you were asking to go beyond the rules.

Senator Murray: Right.

Senator Molgat: We simply followed the rules. That is all we were asking to do and we are not asking for anything different now. We are prepared to follow the rules. We are not interested in delaying legislation. We want the rules to be followed and that there be a reasonable debate here. That is what we want.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Senator Molgat, do I understand that you are withdrawing your amendment?

Senator Molgat: Yes.

Senator Frith: I think, honourable senators, if we go to the simple form so that we do not get drawn into anything else, we are by unanimous consent assuming that the proceedings are now at the stage they were at when I moved my motion for adjournment. We will grant that motion for adjournment until Monday, and suggest that His Honour call the next order of business. It is just that simple, is it not, honourable senators?

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Agreed.

• (1410)

INCOME TAX ACT
CANADIAN PENSION PLAN
CULTURAL PROPERTY EXPORT AND
IMPORT ACT
INCOME TAX CONVENTIONS INTERPRETATIONS
ACT
TAX COURT OF CANADA ACT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT
CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND ATLANTIC ACCORD
IMPLEMENTATIONS ACT
CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFF-SHORE
PETROLEUM RESOURCES ACCORD
IMPLEMENTATION ACT (C-18)

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

On the Order:

Third reading of Bill C-18, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Cultural Property Export and Import Act, the Income Tax Conventions Interpretation Act, the Tax Court of Canada Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and certain related Acts.

[Senator Molgat.]

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: It is moved by the honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the honourable Senator Molgat, that further debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the Senate. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

On motion of Senator Frith, debate adjourned.

[Translation]

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION BILL, 1991

SECOND READING—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Kelly, seconded by the Honourable Senator Atkins, for the second reading of Bill C-20, an Act to amend certain statutes to implement the budget tabled in Parliament on February 26, 1991.

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, every time the present government introduces a new bill, we have the impression history is unfolding in reverse. A new bill often takes us back several years or even decades.

You remember Bill C-21, which was to shake the very foundations of the Unemployment Insurance Program, which had been the pride and joy of Canadians since 1940. Canada's workers remember, as they remember the Prime Minister's promises, confirmed just before the 1988 election by Minister John Crosbie, namely that the Mulroney Government would not touch social programs—programs to which the Prime Minister himself referred as a "sacred trust".

With the support of the great majority of Canadians, the opposition in the House of Commons and the Senate fought a hard fight not to block the bill but to amend it and make it a little more humane. After the Prime Minister used the Queen, as we recall, to obtain a majority in the Senate faster than he was entitled to, the Conservative senators, old and new, impenitent old Tories or former Liberals touched by grace and instantly converted by Mulroney, rushed to pass Bill C-21 without worrying about all the suffering that it would cause.

At the end of 1991, the same government is proposing another retrograde bill, C-20, which brazenly asks us to fill the unemployment insurance fund, to which the government no longer contributes anything, by drawing on employers, who have trouble surviving the continuing recession, and of course on workers, who already have difficulty making ends meet.

We must never forget that in the seventh richest country in the world, more than three million Canadians live below the poverty line. Tens of thousands of them must queue up at soup kitchens, and one child in six is undernourished.

You have all seen the headlines in today's newspapers, following the report of the committee on poverty. One million children live in poverty in the seventh richest country in the world!

Those are the hard realities of which, the citizens of St. John's, Newfoundland reminded the Prime Minister and, what