

Senator Deschatelets: I made it perfectly clear, Senator McElman, if you will refer to the statement I read on Wednesday last, that I was speaking on behalf of a number of honourable senators, and I have no authority whatsoever to go outside the statement I made then.

Senator McElman: On the question of privilege before the house, honourable senators, it seems from what has taken place thus far this evening that one cannot tell the players without a program.

Senator Marshall: That's right.

● (2020)

Senator McElman: Without suggesting anything untoward with respect to my honoured and honourable friend, Senator Jean-Paul Deschatelets, it seems to me that doubts have been created in many minds.

Senator Flynn: They haven't been created in your mind, so you have no problem.

Senator McElman: I know that there is doubt in my mind and that there is doubt in the minds of others. It seems only fair for those who are directly involved, as well as for other senators who are—

Senator Molson: You are not involved.

Senator McElman: Excuse me, Senator Molson. You have always given me the consideration that I have given you—that of not interrupting when you speak. In your capacity as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, I think you should observe that courtesy.

It seems to me only fair to the Senate as a whole, especially those senators who have been named, that, instead of being represented by a spokesman, those who are here should rise individually in their places and state either that they wish a change in seating or that they do not wish a change in seating. It seems to me that this is the only fair way to dispose of this entire question. Senators are responsible people, and they should speak for themselves.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I would like to make one reference to complete the contributions on the question of the role of the whip on the question of seating. I remind honourable senators of the declaration made on June 10, 1981 by Senator Deschatelets, who is reported at page 2500 of *Hansard* as saying:

These senators are not changing party affiliation, nor are they forming or joining a new party—

Those words should be remembered when considering the role of both party whips. Apparently none of the senators is changing party affiliation.

Senator Asselin: What do you want to prove by that?

Senator Flynn: What is your interpretation?

Senator Frith: My interpretation is—

Senator Asselin: What are you trying to prove?

Senator Frith: Give me a chance.

[Senator McElman.]

Senator Flynn: It's about time.

Senator Frith: It's about time? I have not had a chance.

Senator Perrault: Oh come on; you are all in a bad mood.

Senator Frith: During the period I have been here—and I realize that is not as long as certain other honourable senators, have been here—this is the first time that the question of the seating of senators who do not wish to change party affiliation has been raised on the floor of the chamber rather than privately with the party whips.

Hon. John Morrow Godfrey: Honourable senators, I would like to know how those of us who have an eye on the seats that are being vacated can make an application. To be specific, I have my eye on Senator Cook's seat, because I want to sit next to Senator Neiman.

Hon. Eric Cook: If the request is granted, the honourable senator may have my seat.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ACT

BILL TO AMEND—MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons returning Bill S-4, to amend the Department of Labour Act, and acquainting the Senate that they had passed the bill without amendment.

PROHIBITION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES BILL

MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons returning Bill S-7, to provide for the prohibition of certain international air services, and acquainting the Senate that they had passed the bill without amendment.

● (2025)

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) tabled:

Capital Budget of the Royal Canadian Mint for the year ended December 31, 1980, pursuant to section 70(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*, Chapter F-10, R.S.C., 1970, together with Order in Council P.C. 1980-2246, dated August 27, 1980, approving same.

Capital Budget of the Royal Canadian Mint for the year ending December 31, 1981, pursuant to section 70(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*, Chapter F-10, R.S.C., 1970, together with Order in Council P.C. 1981-1281, dated May 14, 1981, approving same.

Report of VIA Rail Canada Inc., including its accounts and financial statements certified by the auditors, for the year ended December 31, 1980, pursuant to sections