

during the five months the Leader of the Government refers to.

Senator Lamontagne: That is not a question of privilege.

Senator Flynn: It is indeed, because it is a question of interpretation. You should know that.

Senator Perrault: As usual, I dislike engaging in partisan dissertation.

Senator Flynn: That goes without saying.

Senator Perrault: Perhaps members on the other side should be most acutely aware of this section of the Auditor General's report which applies to their activity or inactivity through their term in office.

● (1435)

Senator Flynn: There was no inactivity.

Senator Perrault: As far as this government is concerned, however, we accept this new mandate without a spirit of recrimination about the past, and we will get on with the future.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Hon. G. I. Smith: In regard to this business of bringing forward bills for consideration, perhaps the Leader of the Government would enlighten those of us who do not understand, and tell us why it is impossible or difficult for the house to debate bills on second reading until committees are appointed.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, it will be the intention to move ahead with these bills tomorrow afternoon. This is the present plan.

Senator Flynn: Good.

Senator Perrault: In certain cases it may be necessary to refer them to committees. Perhaps on negotiation with the Leader of the Opposition we can discuss certain bills where referral to committee may not be necessary. We are as anxious as honourable senators in opposition to move ahead with the excellent legislation before us.

Senator Flynn: My specific question was whether the item concerning the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne would be stood tomorrow.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): It will not be stood tomorrow on this side. We hope we will also have a bill for tomorrow.

Senator Flynn: That is all we wanted to know.

FINANCE

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—CIDA EXPENDITURES

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, earlier the Leader of the Government in the Senate, to whom I referred yesterday as the "Minister of Irresponsibility," referred to the

[Senator Flynn.]

Auditor General's report. In that report the Auditor General referred to the expenditures in connection with CIDA, and he stated that a particular item, a boat, would not float. Would the Leader of the Government assure this chamber that the cabinet will have a meeting on board this boat which does not float? I think this would be very important and that it would solve many problems facing this country.

Senator Perrault: You made a statement.

GRAIN

FEED BARLEY AND OATS—EXPORT PERMITS

Hon. Martha P. Bielish: Honourable senators, my question is directed to the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board. Many farmers in central Alberta have been able to find markets for crushed and rolled feed barley and oats in the United States. I believe there have been misunderstandings between the Canadian Wheat Board and farmers as to whether they can ship this product by permit.

Can the minister inform me where the product must originate and what the price should be?

More specifically, my questions are: First, are permits issued by the Canadian Wheat Board readily available to farmers wishing to export their feed barley and oats to the United States and, secondly, what are the conditions attached to these permits? Are farmers able to ship from their farms by truck at their negotiated price to prospective customers across the border? Are there restrictions as to the form of the product—that being whole grain, crushed grain, or rolled grain—and if so, why?

● (1440)

Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board): Honourable senators, I shall be very pleased to take that question as notice and bring a comprehensive answer to the honourable senator.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IRAN—DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, I should like to address a question to the Leader of the Government, which I would ask him to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As nations around the world, many of them less secure in energy than Canada, line up to express their outrage at Iran's breach of international law, has Canada given any further thought of severing diplomatic ties with that country? Is a decision being made on it, or when can one be expected?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Consideration is being given to a number of options that may be available should that very difficult situation continue. That question will be taken as notice.

CUBAN REFUGEES—CANADIAN COMMITMENT

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: While on the question of international matters, may I point out that apparently Canada has made