

Penalization for lengthening the run: \$16,856 (other trains rerouted towards Moncton by the CN Mont Joli and Newcastle subdivision.)

Total—\$968,315.

**Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche):** Honourable senators, I should like to thank the Leader of the Government for having obtained in record time this information in reply to my most recent questions concerning the CNR. I say it was done in record time because in my view it has not always been easy to obtain information from the CNR or, in many cases, from the CBC. I should also like to point out that many of these questions have been answered very negatively and the answers are unsatisfactory and far from being complete.

I should like to remind those two corporations, the CNR and the CBC, that these are not answers only to me; they should understand that they are giving the answers to the Senate of Canada. My latest Notice of Inquiry leads me to believe that on most occasions we are being taken for a ride. Perhaps they would like to tell the senators to mind their own business.

**Hon. Mr. Choquette:** Perhaps the CNR is being taken for a ride.

**Hon. Mr. Langlois:** Maybe they are being railroaded.

**Hon. Mr. Walker:** Touché.

**Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche):** My last Notice of Inquiry goes back to 1972 and was concerned with a derailment on the CNR at Monk. The total loss incurred by the company at that time was stated to be \$655,270. The answer I received today in connection with the same derailment, at the same place, on the same date, is a loss of \$968,315, which makes a difference of \$313,045, a big difference for one item. I just wonder if this is the type of answer we can expect. I will leave this with you. I could ask more of these questions but I wonder if we would receive similar answers. I think it is terrible that we receive this type of answer.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, February 28, consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Senator Robichaud, seconded by Senator Perrault, for an Address in reply thereto.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jacques Flynn:** Honourable senators, despite all predictions, this 29th Parliament will thus have lived long enough to see the opening of its second session.

Will it live to see the end of it? Might there be a third session? That is difficult to predict, the government and its temporary ally, the NDP, having shown until now so much aptitude for opportunism, turnabouts, bows, pirouettes, compromise; the government, to keep itself in power, and the NDP, to avoid elections.

That truly is the picture the last session brings to mind and doubtless what we can expect of the one which has

[Hon. Mr. Martin.]

just started. The corner of the veil lifted by the Speech from the Throne does support this conclusion.

However, before coming to the heart of my remarks, of which you are doubtless now aware, I have just given you a general idea, I should like to say how pleased I am with the appointment of our new Governor General, His Excellency Jules Léger, an eminent diplomat whose career illustrates how talented, distinguished and devoted he is. In every post held prior to entering Rideau Hall, he did Canada proud.

In the performance of his duties, he has always had and will always have the support and co-operation of his charming, devoted and intelligent wife.

On behalf of the official Opposition, I extend to Their Excellencies our wishes for a happy and fruitful sojourn at Rideau Hall, confident that they will discharge the duties of their high office with the same dignity and competence they showed in their previous appointments.

● (2010)

[English]

Honourable senators, that a do-nothing Parliament such as this should have lasted as long as it has is deplorable.

**An Hon. Senator:** A miracle!

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** But there is one consolation. Since we are starting a new session and not a new Parliament, it means that Senator Muriel Fergusson will continue to preside over our deliberations.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** And we are convinced that she will continue to preside with all the patience, wisdom, charm and wit that are so characteristic of her.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** Senator Fergusson is an outstanding Speaker. She has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to try to improve the Senate's public image. I want Madam Speaker to know today that the official Opposition recognizes, and very much appreciates, her praiseworthy efforts along these lines. She can count on our continued co-operation.

Senator Fergusson's continued presence in the Speaker's Chair offers, as I have said, some consolation. Senator Martin's continued presence in the government leader's chair offers, however, somewhat less. I hasten to assure him that there is nothing personal in what I say. I, as do many others, recognize him as a man of sterling qualities, a man of outstanding ability.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** I have often found myself envious of his highly flexible personality. His career demonstrates well what a great capacity he possesses for adapting to different people, circumstances and programs. But even if the grounds for disagreement between us should be, and are, few, they are not unimportant. Basically, I have never been able to adopt his perspective with regard to the Senate, and as to the way in which it should discharge its constitutional responsibilities. Senator Martin, I continue to hope, will some day find a way to accept some of my suggestions in this respect. Although I have always been