

chooses to quit in some hypothetical situation where I would be resigning my job—

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** We call that the grandfather clause.

**Senator Olson:** It would be helpful, honourable senators, if I could give you the entire answer at once. Any comments, verbal or otherwise, can then be made about it.

**Senator Asselin:** We know the answer; we read Hansard yesterday.

**Senator Olson:** The Prime Minister said:

—if Mr. Macdonald chooses to quit in some hypothetical situation where I would be resigning my job, then surely he is free to do that. To be quite thorough in my answer, the matter did come up. I told Mr. Macdonald that I could not bind him forever.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, the Prime Minister continued:

I told Mr. Macdonald that I could not bind him forever, that he was raising a hypothetical situation and he would just have to take that under consideration in deciding whether he would accept it or not.

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Do you call that enlightening?

**Senator Olson:**

I think that the same reasoning applies to some 12 or 14 other members of the Commission whose names will be announced very soon. I do not think that they are bound forever, either. There are some former Conservatives on the list, and I suppose they too could resign to seek the leadership of the Conservative Party.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** For once he is humorous!

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to questions which were asked on the same day by Senators Asselin and Murray concerning the method of appointment and numbers of other members of the Royal Commission on Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada.

The Prime Minister has announced that another 12 to 14 members of the royal commission will be appointed very soon. He has also stated that Mr. Macdonald has been consulting with other participants. Members will be appointed by order in council.

**Senator Flynn:** Is Senator Davey on the list?

#### ROYAL COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question which was asked by Senator Murray on November 17 concerning a statement made by the Minister of Finance.

Honourable senators, this question was answered on November 16, 1982. Senator Murray may find the answer on page 4987 of Senate *Hansard* of that day.

● (1415)

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, in response to a question asked by Senator Marshall concerning the Law of the Sea Treaty, the answer is:

The American position on the Law of the Sea Treaty is that they do not like it and will not sign it. However, it is not for the Canadian government to comment on the reasons for the Americans' not signing it. Canada regrets the American attitude and has brought this point of view to the Americans. Canada supports the treaty and Cabinet is considering our position in regard to signing the convention.

Honourable senators will note that I am reading all of the delayed answers because they are rather brief.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Especially as we have ample time.

## FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a reply to a question, asked by Senator Roblin on October 25, concerning statements about FIRA made at the recent meeting with U.S. business leaders sponsored by the Niagara Institute.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Regional Economic Expansion informs me that I was correct in saying that no promises that the act would be amended were made. In the minister's remarks to the group, he spoke about the steps we have taken, and will be taking, to streamline the review process. With respect to possible changes in the legislation, he indicated that he had asked for recommendations from the agency, and that the legislation had been in effect since 1974 with no review in the interim. However, he also indicated that it was highly unlikely that any legislative changes would be enacted in the near future.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I agree with that.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### INDIA—CANDU REACTOR—SUPPLY OF HEAVY WATER

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Lang on November 16, concerning Canadian policy with respect to the sale of heavy water to India. The answer is somewhat long. Perhaps honourable senators will accept it as having been read.

**An Hon. Senator:** You read very well.