

THE SENATE

Thursday, April 24, 1980

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR IN GALLERY

THE HON. PETER DREW DURACK, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
AUSTRALIA

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I should like at this time to bring to your attention the presence in the South Gallery of Senator the Honourable Peter Durack, Q.C., Attorney General in the new Liberal/National Country Party coalition Ministry of Australia.

On behalf of all senators, I want to tell him that we are honoured by his presence in the Senate chamber.

IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-2, to amend the Immigration Act, 1976.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next, April 29, 1980.

Motion agreed to.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

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

Report of the Canadian National Railways, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and Financial Statements thereof, for the year ended December 31, 1979, pursuant to section 40 of the *Canadian National Railways Act*, Chapter C-10, R.S.C., 1970.

Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada by the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the year ended December 31, 1979, pursuant to section 106.9 of the *Criminal Code*, Chapter 53, Statutes of Canada, 1976-77.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government), with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), moved

that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, April 29, 1980, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

TANKER TRANSPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL ON WEST COAST

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, I have a question for Senator Olson, who I believe is the minister responsible for pipelines. Can the minister tell us whether or not the government was able to secure a commitment from U.S. Secretary of State Vance, during his visit to Ottawa yesterday, that the U.S. will not allow oil to be shipped via tanker down the west coast?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I cannot answer specifically—

Senator Flynn: What else is new?

Senator Olson: I cannot answer specifically as to whether or not there was a commitment that oil would not be shipped via tanker down the west coast. I shall attempt to obtain an answer to the question. I do know that there was some discussion about the matter in the talks held with Secretary of State Vance.

Senator Nurgitz: If I may, I have a supplementary. The minister, when he was sitting on this side of the chamber, was condemning the American decision not to proceed with the Trans Mountain pipeline. It is my understanding from following the newspaper reports during the recent election that not only his leader in the other place, but many candidates in British Columbia, promised the people that, if elected, they would see to it that there would be no tanker traffic along the British Columbia coast.

Does the minister expect his government to deliver on this promise made to British Columbia voters?

● (1410)

Senator Olson: I am sure the honourable senator recognizes that we gave a commitment to try to minimize that, and we were critical of the previous government for failing to take action to encourage the United States authorities to consider the overland route which would have eliminated, at least, some of the tanker problem. I am sure the honourable senator also