

honourable friend that I will promote the interest of this particular issue as a minister of the government.

Senator Molgat: The Leader of the Government replied yesterday as a senator. As a supplementary, I point out that my concern is as to the advice he is giving the government as a senator from Manitoba. Right now jobs are being lost in Manitoba.

Senator Flynn: It would be out of order.

Senator Molgat: If Senator Flynn wishes to get into the discussion, he may do so.

Senator Flynn: On a point of order, the honourable senator cannot put a question to Senator Roblin as a senator, but only as a minister. The honourable senator should look up the rules. He is Chairman of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee.

Senator Molgat: Senator Flynn, I am quite aware of the rule. If Senator Flynn also read the rules, he would find that they say that senators should not interrupt other senators who are speaking. They may rise on a point of order.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Molgat: The honourable senator is welcome to rise on a point of order whenever he wishes, but the house would really appreciate it, Senator Flynn, if you would not—

Senator Flynn: What are you doing now?

Senator Molgat: Let me get back to the question. I recognize that I must ask the Leader of the Government the question as a minister, and I did that; but he responded to me as a senator. It was his response, not mine. Therefore, I am asking him what advice he gave.

Senator Roblin: It is too bad that when a point of order is raised and it is legitimate, my friend does not respect it.

Senator Molgat: Yes, I did. I sat down.

THE SENATE

MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, in the absence of the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, may I put a question to Senator Macquarrie, the deputy chairman of that committee? It is rumoured that the Senate will not sit next week. I am wondering if the deputy chairman can indicate whether or not the committee will be meeting.

Hon. Heath Macquarrie: Honourable senators, having an orderly and tidy mind, I was waiting until the Senate had made some decision about what to do about next week. When it had done so, I was going to announce, as an exercise in supererogation, that Senator van Roggen had asked that the Committee on Foreign Affairs meet at the usual time, that is on Tuesday at 11 a.m., when the witness will be Mr. Horace Barber, the former Governor of the Bank of Jamaica and the Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank. We look forward to seeing Senator Bosa there.

FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

FAMINE RELIEF—REPORTED BREACH OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, so that our records will be complete on this subject, may I return to another subject which I raised earlier with the Leader of the Government, namely, the francophone summit? I had asked the Leader of the Government whether there was any disagreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec with respect to the proceedings at the francophone summit. More particularly, I asked whether the Government of Canada felt that the agreement, or the entente, had been breached in any way by the substantive proposal made by Premier Bourassa made with respect to the provisioning of European food for African countries. The Leader of the Government said that there was no breach, that the ministers in attendance were satisfied that everything was as it should have been.

I am confused by statements emanating from Paris which state—and here I quote from today's *Citizen*. The Prime Minister:

added sternly that if Quebec breaks that rule at the next francophone summit to be held in Quebec City . . . that'll be the first and last time, it's just that simple. Do it to me once, blind-side me once, (and) you've got a problem the next time we have a meeting.

Of course, the newspapers are full of the statement by the Prime Minister, which is quite direct, colourful, and can only be associated with the Premier of Quebec.

Does the Leader of the Government now accept the view of the Prime Minister, or is he going back to the view of Mr. Bouchard, whom he quoted the other day, the view being that the Prime Minister is unhappy and dissatisfied that, according to his views, this entente has been breached.

● (1430)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I confess frankly that I am having a hard time with newspaper reports. There seems to be a difference of nuance in what we have heard. My honourable friend thinks it is considerably more than that. I will say that my brief at the present time has not changed. However, I will be very glad to make further inquiries, and if there is any further information I can obtain on this matter, I will pass it on to my honourable friend.

Senator MacEachen: Honourable senators, I would appreciate it. I think we ought to know exactly what the view of the Government of Canada is and what incident the Prime Minister had in mind when he used the expression "blind-side." It is a pretty rough one. It is not quite "Versailles" language, if I may so say.

Senator Roblin: I know one thing for sure, if my honourable friend had been there, it would have been "Versailles" language.

Senator Flynn: I doubt it.