

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 9, 1971

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

Prayers.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE

BIOGRAPHIES OF SENATORS

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, some time ago there were questions raised about the time limit for corrections to biographies which appear every year in the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*. I have looked into this matter and I want to put on record that any corrections or new biographies should be forwarded before December 15 to the following address:

Canadian Parliamentary Guide,
P.O. Box 3453, Station "C",
Ottawa, Ontario.

I have arranged with the Clerk of the Senate that a reminder will be sent to all honourable senators at the beginning of December each year. By so doing we should be able to avoid the inconveniences that some honourable senators have been put to in the past with respect to changes they should like to have seen made to their biographies.

DOCUMENT TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Report of the Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, including accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the year ended December 31, 1970, pursuant to section 85(3) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

REFERRAL TO SENATE COMMITTEE—QUESTION

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, may I ask the Government Leader if it is the Government's intention to refer the Report of the Auditor General to a standing committee of the Senate?

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, I do not think I have tabled the report. Of course, it is open to my dear friend Senator Flynn, or to any honourable senator, to move that such a report be referred to committee. I, on behalf of the Government, would have no objection.

OFFICIAL RESIDENCES ACT

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

Hon. Paul Martin moved the third reading of Bill C-241, to amend the Prime Minister's Residence Act. Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION BILL

SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West) for the second reading of Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, Bill C-207 is an agglomeration of completely unrelated topics, the like of which Parliament has not been exposed to since the notorious omnibus bill which a couple of years ago amended a large number of the provisions of the Criminal Code. In my view it is an obvious attempt on the part of the Government to force Parliament to accept legislative enactments which, if they were introduced separately, might be more easily defeated.

We are being asked to approve in one and the same bill the establishment of a Department of the Environment, the creation of ministries of state, an increase in the number of parliamentary secretaries, a new status for the Postmaster General, new retirement regulations for public servants, and special privileges for deputy heads of departments.

I cannot complain with respect to the explanation given by the sponsor of the bill, Senator John J. Connolly, who did an excellent job, regarding which I will have a little more to say later. Perhaps the Government sees some sort of invisible thread magically sewing these disparate subjects together. If so, it has more imagination than it has common sense, or, for that matter, respect for Parliament. This whole legislative mess is an obvious ploy designed to surround one highly unacceptable piece of legislation with a plethora of less important matters in order to draw attention away from a detestable exercise in how to further enhance party solidarity by making all of the Indians chiefs.

Granted, this Government is in dire need of reorganization. This very bill is just one more piece of evidence in support of that contention. However, this is most definitely not the proper way to proceed. History nowhere records that a chaotic approach to restoring order where disorder reigned ever proved successful. The most loathesome facet of such a legislative monstrosity as the one we are presently debating is that by throwing everything into the same hopper and forcing us to vote for or against the package, the Government makes it impossible for a senator to indicate which parts of the bill he approves and which he would repudiate if they stood alone, or separately.

The ill-concealed and singular purpose of this devious piece of legislation is to increase the number of members of the House of Commons holding down government jobs