

THE SENATE

Monday, May 30, 1977

The Senate met at 8 p.m., Hon. Maurice Bourget, P.C., Speaker *pro tem*, in the Chair.

Prayers.

CLERK'S ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT TABLED PURSUANT TO RULE 112

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tem* informed the Senate that, in accordance with rule 112, the Clerk of the Senate had laid on the Table a detailed statement of his receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year 1976-77.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Senator Langlois moved:

That the Clerk's accounts be referred to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration.

Motion agreed to.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Senator Perrault tabled:

Copies of Report of the National Energy Board entitled "Canadian Oil—Supply and Requirements," dated February 1977.

Report of The Fisheries Research Board of Canada for the year ended December 31, 1976, pursuant to section 12 of the Fisheries Research Board Act, Chapter F-24, R.S.C., 1970.

Copies of document entitled "Agenda for Co-operation," a Discussion Paper on Decontrol and Post-control Issues, issued by the Minister of Finance.

ENERGY

ACQUISITION OF OIL SUPPLIES FROM MEXICO—QUESTION ANSWERED

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I have the answer to a question posed by the Honourable Senator Austin on April 28 last. The question was:

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government a question concerning a visit to Mexico by the Secretary of External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson. Press reports indicate that Mr. Jamieson is engaged in negotiating the acquisition of oil supplies from new Mexican production. Could the government leader tell us whether this is, in fact, the case, and, if so, (a) what quantity of oil

will be imported into Canada from Mexico; (b) what will be the role of private companies in acquiring this oil, as they are the only refiners in this country; and (c) will Petro-Canada have a role in this matter?

The answer is: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Donald Jamieson, did not "negotiate the acquisition of oil supplies from new Mexican production" during his recent state visit to Mexico. The possibility of oil exports to Canada was discussed only in broad terms during the minister's talks with Mexican officials. At the same time that the minister was in Mexico the President of Petro-Canada, Mr. William Hopper, visited Mexico and had private talks with officials of the Mexican national oil company. However, there have been no indications to date that any Canadian company has contracted to import crude oil from Mexico on a regular basis.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

CROWN CORPORATIONS NOT SUBJECT TO AUDIT—
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ANSWERED

Senator Perrault: The Honourable Senator Grosart, supported by the Honourable Senator Smith (Colchester), on May 18 last posed a question regarding crown corporations not subject to audit by the Auditor General. The question inquired why the constituent acts of the six corporations permitted the appointment of auditors other than the Auditor General, rather than appointment being made under the Financial Administration Act.

In actual fact the constituent acts of many crown corporations do prescribe that the Auditor General will be the auditor, while others permit the appointment of auditors from the private sector. Appointment from the private sector enables the rotation of the audit. In one instance, the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is required to have two auditors and the act provides for their terms to overlap. More recent practice is to call for a five-year term for the auditor, with the first year to overlap with the outgoing auditor and the last year to overlap with the incoming auditor. Very recent legislation included this requirement for Petro-Canada and the Federal Mortgage Exchange Corporation.

● (2010)

While Senator Grosart's question implies that where an auditor is appointed under the Financial Administration Act that auditor is automatically the Auditor General, this may not be the case at all. Section 67 envisages the Auditor General as the alternative, or second choice, to an auditor from the private sector, or as a joint auditor with such an auditor, and reads as follows: