

on television, either CTV or CBC, when he was at the University of British Columbia. That is the transcript I am alluding to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

● (1720)

ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable Charles Gonthier, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned, and being come with their Deputy Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bill:

An Act respecting the Hibernia Development Project and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto (*Bill C-44, Chapter 41, 1990*)

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to retire.

● (1730)

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with respect to the business before us, it is my understanding that we will hold a vote at 5.45 p.m.

Some Hon. Senators: Ring the bells.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: As whip, I have certain questions to raise. My understanding is that the vote will be called at 5.45 p.m., and then there will be a bell.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): That is right.

Senator Phillips: I think it is essential for both whips to know that when we defer a vote from one sitting to the next, it is at 5.45 p.m. as stipulated in the rules. It is not 5.30 or any other time.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: It has been earlier in the past.

Senator Phillips: It is not Senator Frith's rule, it is from the provisional rules which stipulate 5.45 p.m. for the vote. Subsequently there is, subject to the whips' approval, a 30-minute bell.

I would ask that rather than having the bells begin ringing now, we wait until 5.45 p.m. That is according to the rules.

Senator Frith: Hon. Senators, I want the record to show how delighted I am to hear that Senator Phillips has finally repented and wants to observe the rules.

[Senator Grafstein.]

Senator Phillips: I feel I have always observed the rules.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Senator Frith: You told us that it is not the rules that count, it is the Speaker who counts.

Senator Phillips: My honourable friend opposite is saying that I have not observed the rules. I think I have done a hell of a lot better at observing the rules than Senator Frith.

Senator Frith: I know you think that.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I had a couple of questions that I did not have the opportunity to ask. I see that the Leader of the Government is not here, but would the deputy leader take one or two questions as notice?

Senator Barootes: Now it is Delayed Answers to Oral Questions.

Senator Olson: We need an opportunity not so much for hearlin delayed answers as for asking questions.

Senator Doody: I thought we had proceeded to Orders of the Day. I thought the first order had been called.

QUESTION PERIOD

AGRICULTURE

MAJOR SALE BY CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Leave having been given to revert to Question Period:

Hon. H.A. Olson: I would ask the Deputy Leader of the Government to ask the leader to advise the House whether or not there has been a major wheat sale by the Canadian Wheat Board in the last few days? The papers are full of rumours that it has been made, but there has been no confirmation. Farmers of western Canada would like to know whether this is true, or whether it is just a rumour mill.

Senator Doody: I assume there is general consensus that we revert to Question Period, in which event, I will take your question as notice and try to find some information.

THE ECONOMY

EFFECT OF MANUFACTURERS' SALES TAX

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: My question is directed to the Deputy Leader of the Government. The Prime Minister was on television last night and appeared to be in good form. In one of his answers he condemned the manufacturers' sales tax as one of the most iniquitous provisions in this country. He said it was wrong and had hampered Canadian trade. Why did the government boost the tax three times since 1986 if it was doing that much damage to the Canadian economy?

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): I suspect they needed the revenue to cover that amazing deficit the honourable gentleman's party left behind.