

Shall I wait until the honourable senator has completed his briefing of his leader?

**Senator Roblin:** No, I am listening carefully. I have had my briefing and am prepared for you.

**Senator MacEachen:** I remind the Leader of the Government that there are a number of very important questions which have not been answered. For example, there is the question on access to information and the question on press guidelines. Questions on these guidelines have not been answered. Later today there will be a debate on an inquiry initiated by Senator Davey, and it would be helpful to our debate to have up-to-date answers on the questions on access to information and press guidelines.

Personally, I have asked questions, not only on that topic but also on the topic of the date of the forecast provided to the new government by the Department of Finance. I need to know that date—and it is within the knowledge of the government—in order to deal with a number of matters that will be coming before the Senate. So, having reminded the Leader of the Government of these two questions, among many that remain unanswered, I finish by telling him that it would make life easier for all of us if we could establish the practice that all questions put the preceding week are answered the following Tuesday.

I congratulate the Leader of the Government for his start, but I think it is very inadequate and that it is not appropriate for so many questions to be left unanswered, in view of the long period of time that the leader has had to deal with those questions.

**Senator Roblin:** I guess I should share with my colleague the advice I got from the senator who sits behind me. He said, "Only a man who was not here in the Senate during the previous session could ever ask such a question."

**Hon. Orville H. Phillips:** Are you embarrassed, Royce?

**Senator Roblin:** Those of us who were in opposition in the old days were accustomed to waiting patiently for the answers we eventually got.

**An. Hon. Senator:** You never waited that long.

**Senator Roblin:** I must say we eventually got them. I wish to make that clear and to say to my honourable friend that I will do my best to get him his answers as quickly as possible.

My honourable friend probably knows that we have a special staff of one whose job it is, among other things, to process these matters with my colleagues in the other place. I wish to say that we follow that course diligently. However, the problem is that it is not always possible, for one reason or another, to obtain answers as quickly as we would like; however, it is not for lack of chasing. Insofar as we are concerned, we will diligently pursue those matters until we do receive the answers.

[Senator MacEachen.]

## SALTFISH ACT

### 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-6, to amend the Saltfish Act.

Bill read first time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

On motion of Senator Roblin, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next.

## THE HONOURABLE MAURICE RIEL, P.C.

### FELICITATIONS ON APPOINTMENT TO PRIVY COUNCIL

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I would like to draw to the attention of this house that our colleague, Senator Maurice Riel, former Speaker of the Senate, has recently been appointed to the Privy Council.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have been scooped by my honourable friend. I had hoped to have the privilege of announcing this news to the Senate and congratulating my honourable friend, Senator Riel. I am happy to join with Senator Frith in extending the good wishes of the chamber to Senator Riel on his appointment to the Privy Council.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### ADDRESS IN REPLY ADOPTED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Macquarrie, seconded by the Honourable Senator Tremblay, for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to Her Speech at the opening of the Session.—(*Honourable Senator Cools*).

**Hon. Anne C. Cools:** Honourable senators, I would like to say that since this was supposed to be my maiden speech and since for the past several days I have been saying "Stand" when this order has been called, I feel a bit like a bride left at the altar. Since we all know that I am not virginal to politics it is, indeed, a distressing feeling because politics and I are seasoned bedfellows.

● (1440)

I would like to begin, honourable senators, by perhaps rolling back the clock. I was appointed to this chamber in January 1984 by the then Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau. As you all know, I feel very strongly about Mr. Trudeau. I feel especially strongly that Mr. Trudeau sought to mention me in his outgoing speech to our party faithful last June. I am proud to be part of the Trudeau legacy.