

Senator MacEachen: We are meeting, so why come in now and say, "Give us leave for third reading of the Representation bill; give us the second reading of the Excise Tax Act without debate, and give us second reading of the Family Allowances bill, and if you do that, if you are meek and mild, I will change my mind and rescind my intention of calling the Senate back next week?"

Senator Roblin: It is perfectly clear that my honourable friend has got the bit in his teeth. He has expressed himself very clearly. All I can say to him is that I have tried to present a reasonable compromise, a compromise that I thought and hoped would meet with the approbation of the majority in this house.

I cannot be blamed for having some optimistic expectations as to how honourable senators will react, but now I see that I should have stood in bed.

Senator Frith: We feel the same way.

Senator Roblin: There is no point in trying to come to an accommodation, because an accommodation is not possible. I accept that fact and the adjournment motion will be proceeded with.

Senator Flynn: So, leave is not granted.

Senator Frith: No, leave is not granted.

On motion of Senator Flynn, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

Senator MacEachen: What an incompetent government! That is the perception—

Senator Flynn: What an incompetent Leader of the Opposition! The Leader of the Opposition does not understand the Senate at all.

Senator MacEachen: That is the perception of this government all across the country and in the Senate.

Senator Flynn: You should not be proud of yourself.

Senator MacEachen: I would not want you to be proud of me; that would be a bad day in my life.

Senator Flynn: Don't be silly.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move:

That when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, February 18, 1986, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

[Senator Flynn.]

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

OIL PRICING

Hon. H. A. Olson: Honourable senators, I wish to advise the Leader of the Government in the Senate that the situation respecting the oil industry is continuing to deteriorate. I was hoping that he would reply today because I thought that the Senate would not meet next week—certainly the House of Commons will not meet next week. I am still hoping he can do so.

Notice is being given now—not sometime later—by a number of companies that exploration and development activity is coming to a halt. There are drilling companies and service and supply companies severely curtailing their activities. The reason is that more and more oil and gas companies are giving notice of reducing exploration and development activity. They are cutting their budgets and they are laying off personnel.

I hope that the Leader of the Government is prepared to give at least some glimmer of hope that this government is contemplating action to deal with this very serious economic deterioration.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have nothing to add to the statements I made previously on this subject.

INTERNATIONAL OIL PRICING—AGENDA ITEM AT ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Hon. Jack Austin: Following on Senator Olson's question, the Leader of the Government will know that an economic summit is to be held in Japan during the first week of May of this year and that the Prime Minister will be representing Canada at that summit.

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether the subject of international oil pricing is an agreed agenda item at the summit meeting, as undoubtedly it should be, bearing in mind the impact international oil pricing has on the world's economy.

If it is the case that international oil pricing will be on the agenda, could the Leader of the Government in the Senate advise us what position the Government of Canada might take with its economic summit partners with respect to establishing, at least for those seven nations, a floor price of some kind to ensure that domestic production is sustained, that the service industries to which Senator Olson referred are kept intact, and that there is not a destruction of the structural part of our oil industry or our ability to carry out exploration and development as a result of a serious price decline.

If the Leader of the Government finds that these questions are not yet current, I wonder whether he would undertake to make representations, particularly on behalf of the oil-producing provinces of western Canada.