

proposed reductions are largely dependent on concurrence by Treasury Board in an early retirement program adapted to the requirements of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

EARL A. HASTINGS
Chairman

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Hastings, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

TRANSPORT

MEASURE TO TERMINATE RAILWAY STRIKE—MOTION TO DEBATE
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 58(1)(f), I move:

That the question of the desirability of enacting immediately a measure to terminate the present railway strike be referred to a Committee of the Whole, and

That the Committee meet later this day.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is leave granted?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme: Honourable senators, I thank the house leader for his extraordinary cooperation with me, even though I am independent. Speaking for myself, I know he is getting everything he wants. That is the way to run a good railroad, and that is the way to run a good Senate!

Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I appreciate very much that the Deputy Leader of the Government has acted on the suggestion of my very own leader. For the record, can he tell us who the witnesses will be and in what order they might appear?

Senator Graham: As I understand it, the witnesses will be Mr. Paul Tellier, President and Chief Executive Officer of CN, and he will be accompanied by Mr. Terry Leneker; from CP, we will have Mr. Rob P. Ritchie, President and Chief Executive Officer; and from VIA Rail, Terry W. Ivany, President and Chief Executive Officer.

In addition, from the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, we will have Mr. Gary Housch, Vice-President; from the International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Mr. George Hucker, Vice-President and National Legislative Representative; and from the United Transportation Union, Mr. Tim Secord, Legislative Director.

That is the list of witnesses who have been invited and have indicated a desire and a willingness to appear before the

Committee of the Whole. It is my understanding that they will be available. As to the order, I understand that Mr. Tellier has indicated that he has other commitments later in the afternoon, and he has asked to appear first.

The clerk of the committee will be bringing in the witnesses in due course.

Motion agreed to.

• (1420)

CANADA-UNITED STATES TAX CONVENTION ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government) presented Bill S-9, to amend the Canada-United States Tax Convention Act, 1984.

Bill read first time.

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

On motion of Senator Graham, bill placed on Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next, March 28, 1995.

QUESTION PERIOD

THE BUDGET 1995

DEFENCE INDUSTRY PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Gerald J. Comeau: Honourable senators, my question to the honourable minister in the Senate concerns the Defence Industry Productivity Program, currently known as DIPP. For more than 35 years, DIPP has been a proven success, helping Canadian industry receive the seed money it needs for high-tech, high-risk inventions. It has helped ensure that meeting our defence needs also provides for civilian benefits. It has given our aerospace industry a fighting chance against other countries where defence procurement is seen as a tool for economic development.

In the Red Book, the Liberals made a clear commitment to expanding this program. As a result of the measures announced in this year's budget, the funding for DIPP will be slashed from \$167 million in 1993-94 to \$22 million in 1997-98. By winding down this program, the Liberals have broken another Red Book promise.

Could the Leader of the Government advise the Senate whether the government has any strategy for either research and development or defence conversion?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the most recent budget brought forward by my colleague, the Minister of Finance has some serious messages which reflect the government's efforts to bring down the deficit to 3 per cent of GDP in three years.