

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) tabled:

Report of the Agricultural Products Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 7 of the *Agricultural Products Board Act*, Chapter A-5, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of the Agricultural Stabilization Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980, pursuant to section 14 of the *Agricultural Stabilization Act*, Chapter A-9, R.S.C., 1970.

Report on the administration of Allowances for Blind Persons in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, pursuant to section 12 of the *Blind Persons Act*, Chapter B-7, R.S.C., 1970.

Report on the administration of Allowances for Disabled Persons in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, pursuant to section 12 of the *Disabled Persons Act*, Chapter D-6, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of the Minister of Finance respecting Olympic coins for the period ending September 30, 1980, pursuant to sections 17(1) and 17(3) of the *Olympic (1976) Act*, Chapter 68, Statutes of Canada, 1974-75-76.

Statement showing Classification of Loans in Canadian Currency of the Chartered Banks of Canada as at September 30, 1980, pursuant to section 119(1) of the *Bank Act*, Chapter B-1, R.S.C., 1970.

Report on operations under the *Regional Development Incentives Act* for the month of September 1980, pursuant to section 16 of the said Act, Chapter R-3, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of operations under the *Export and Import Permits Act* for the year ended December 31, 1979, pursuant to section 27 of the said Act, Chapter E-17, R.S.C., 1970.

Report of the Commission to Review Salaries of Members of Parliament and Senators (Dr. Cliff McIsaac, Chairman), appointed in accordance with the terms of Order in Council P.C. 1980-1274, dated May 9, 1980.

He said: Of course, honourable senators, members of Parliament serve in either of two categories—members of the House of Commons and members of the Senate. I apologize for the incorrect wording in that tabling.

● (2030)

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I move, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(a):

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications have power to sit while the Senate is

sitting tomorrow, Wednesday, 3rd December, 1980, and that rule 76(4) be suspended in relation thereto.

By way of explanation I should like to say that the committee, under the chairmanship of Senator Smith, has moved very quickly on the reference by the Senate to look into the question of the closing of express offices and other related matters. The committee expects to have before it tomorrow the President of Canadian National Railways. Because of some time exigencies relating to the president's schedule, as I am given to understand by Senator Smith, it would be preferable for the committee to commence its sitting at 3 o'clock instead of, as originally intended, when the Senate rises.

I think the chairman of the committee should be congratulated for the expeditious way in which his committee has put this reference into effect, and therefore, I suggest that we agree to the committee's having this special right to sit tomorrow, even though it means it will be sitting at the same time as the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I wish to thank the Deputy Leader of the Government for his remarks and his support in this situation.

Perhaps I should say one or two further words. I felt, from the mood of the Senate, that it was desirable to start hearings on this reference as soon as that could reasonably be done. After some negotiation with the President of the CNR we were able to reach agreement that he would come tomorrow afternoon if we could free him by about 5 o'clock. In order to do that it seemed to me that two hours would be the minimum time, from 3 o'clock to 5 o'clock, in which to accommodate the wishes of senators who might want to ask questions of him. Therefore, with the consent of those members of the committee who were present at the time, I agreed to make this request of the Deputy Leader of the Government.

I hope it will be possible to have a good attendance, particularly more than a quorum, at that committee meeting tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, assuming the Senate agrees to this motion, so that it will be clear, not that we have the bare minimum requirement of attendance in order to carry on business, but that we have a demonstration of the fact that members of the Senate are indeed keenly interested in this problem.

Hon. Daniel Riley: I should like to put a question to the chairman of the committee. Although, as the chairman says, Dr. Bandeen has other commitments at 5 o'clock, I take it that does not preclude his officials from remaining in case there are further questions by members of the committee. I think we discussed this at the last committee meeting.

Senator Smith: I am glad Senator Riley has mentioned that, because I should have included it in my brief comment. I am assured that Dr. Bandeen will be accompanied by the President of Canadian National Express, who has not the same time commitments as Dr. Bandeen and should, therefore, be available to the committee for a longer period, should the committee so desire.