

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 17, 1981

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate with a change in the list of members appointed to serve on the Special Joint Committee on Official Languages.

(For text of message, see today's Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate.)

DOCUMENTS TABLED

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

Reports of the Atlantic Pilotage Authority, the Laurentian Pilotage Authority, the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority, Ltd., and the Pacific Pilotage Authority, including their accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the year ended December 31, 1980, pursuant to section 28 of the *Pilotage Act*, Chapter 52, Statutes of Canada, 1970-71-72.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRANSPORT

AVIATION SAFETY—COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—REFERENCE OF REPORT TO DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I regret that I was unable to give him notice of my question and, therefore, it may be difficult for him to reply on the spur of the moment. I refer to the report rendered by Mr. Justice C. L. Dubin, Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry on Aviation Safety, and the fact that that report has been referred to a departmental committee by the minister. I would ask the Leader of the Government if he is able to provide us with the terms of reference under which this particular report has been referred to the committee.

There are two other points on which I would request some information. I should like to know whether any consideration was given to the establishment of a committee in which representatives of the main interested parties that appeared before the commission might have some input; and why it has been thought advisable to include the Air Administrator as a member of this review committee, in view of the fact that he has an undoubted conflict of interest arising from the commission's report.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the question will be taken as notice. While, of course, I am cognizant of the fact that a broad range of groups associated with the airline industry have made certain representations to the government with respect to actions which they would like to see taken, the details requested by the honourable senator must be obtained from the Minister of Transport. They will be obtained as quickly as possible.

Senator Roblin: Perhaps I could add that the minister is correct in his statement about the representation of the industry. My questions were indeed based on the views they presented at that time. It is a particularly prestigious delegation representing that industry because it includes the Air Transport Association of Canada, Canadian Air Line Pilots' Association, Canadian Air Traffic Control Association, Aircraft Operations Group, Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association, Canadian Owners and Pilots Association, Canadian Air Line Dispatchers Association, l'Association des Gens de l'Air du Québec, and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

I am sure that the government recognizes that these views must receive serious consideration. I would urge the minister to provide us with an answer as soon as he can.

● (1405)

AGRIGULTURE

DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM—ACTION BY SASKATCHEWAN CATTLE FARMERS

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, I have a question that I should perhaps put to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, but I could perhaps put it to the minister responsible for economic development.

There is a report that the Saskatchewan cattle farmers have concluded that they have no alternative but to withhold their cattle—that is, in effect, to strike—because of alleged foot-dragging on the part of the federal government with respect to the 1980 drought relief payments. Could the minister indicate if he is prepared to accept this strike action on behalf of the