

of the late Senator Paul Lafond. Like Senator Molgat, I would like to speak briefly of Senator Lafond as a friend.

I will say at the outset that if Paul were here today he would be dreadfully embarrassed by all the fine things being said about him. He was a self-effacing man. Our acquaintanceship began more than 35 years ago, when Paul was general secretary of the party here in Ottawa and I held a similar office in the province of New Brunswick. He had some experience, while I was very green upon entering the field. He was of tremendous assistance to me. We did have something in common to begin with—we were both five-year veterans of the RCAF.

Honourable senators, I should say that our acquaintanceship of those early days soon blossomed into a relationship of mutual respect and solid friendship. Although we did not always agree on all issues, our friendship matured and strengthened over all those years and was one that I cherished greatly.

Some senators will recall that the idea of a separate committee on defence was first proposed by another great friend of Paul Lafond's, the late Senator Hamilton "Hammy" McDonald, who worked towards that end for some years here and was unable to see it accomplished. But Paul Lafond picked up that torch and often gave credit to "Hammy" McDonald for originating the idea. However, as has been said, Senator Lafond performed as chairman of that committee and gave leadership of a style and substance that could be equalled by very few.

Senator Lafond was a person of courage, integrity and great principle. As a senator he was dedicated, effective and could be termed in every way a full working senator.

I join with others in expressing condolences to Stella and to the other members of the family. I would like to add that there is one other of our acquaintances who should also have our condolences today, and that is the former Clerk of the Senate, Robert Fortier. He was a lifetime friend of Paul Lafond and is suffering his loss very deeply. I should tell honourable senators that during Paul Lafond's illness it was Robert Fortier who attended as often as possible to his personal needs and who proved of such tremendous assistance to Stella. A man whom we know and respect, Robert Fortier, is hurting today as few others are.

### EXCISE TAX ACT EXCISE 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-117, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act.

Bill read first time.

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

**Hon. Jacques Flynn:** Honourable senators, I ask leave to move second reading tomorrow.

[Senator McElman.]

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

On motion of Senator Flynn, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### CLOSING OF VICTORIA, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POST OFFICE— PRESENTATION OF PETITION

**Hon. Heath Macquarrie:** Honourable senators, for the first and, perhaps, only time in this place, I have the honour to present a petition for the residents of Victoria, Queen's County, in the province of Prince Edward Island, praying that the post office in that beautiful and historic village be not closed but remain open in the interests of the community.

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

**Senator Macquarrie:** Although this is not necessary under our procedures, an act of supererogation is not forbidden by our rules. In this instance, I am in a position to authenticate and verify the signatures of all of these citizens of Victoria, Prince Edward Island.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### CANCELLATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**Hon. George van Roggen:** Honourable senators, if I may, I will simply announce that the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will not be sitting this afternoon at four o'clock.

[Translation]

### THE ESTIMATES, 1988-89

#### REPORT OF NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE ON SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A) PRESENTED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

**Hon. Fernand-E. Leblanc:** Honourable senators, the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the honour to present its twenty-first report, on Supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989. I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Debates of the Senate* and to the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day and form part of the permanent records of this house.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It is agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(For text of report see Appendix "A", p. 3544.)

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

On motion of Senator Leblanc (Saurel), report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.