

## THE SENATE

Thursday, March 4, 1982

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

Prayers.

[Translation]

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I move, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, March 9, 1982, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

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

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

### QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

#### LEGISLATION

##### SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS IN SENATE

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I believe that yesterday, Senator Bosa put an interesting question to the Leader of the Government. I should like to know whether today, he is prepared to table a list of the bills he would like the Senate to consider before the House of Commons does.

[English]

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** That related to government bills introduced in the Senate?

**Senator Flynn:** Yes.

**Senator Perrault:** Yes, honourable senators, that matter was taken up this morning. We are hoping that next week there will be some bills available for the Senate. Those immediately available relate to the expenditure of money and cannot be initiated in this chamber.

**Senator Flynn:** We know that.

**Senator Perrault:** I bore the glad tidings that the official opposition supports this initiative as well.

**Senator Flynn:** Yes, but we want action, not only words.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** So do we!

**Senator Perrault:** As the Leader of the Opposition is aware, one of the continuing problems in the progress of legislation through Parliament is the delay in the other place caused by the official opposition.

**Senator Flynn:** That is none of our business.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Flynn:** All I ask the Leader of the Government is: What can we do? That is all he has to consider. If he has no bills to present, he knows what he should do—stay put.

### THE ECONOMY

#### GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT—GROWTH RATE

**Hon. Lowell Murray:** I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development.

**Hon. R. James Balfour:** I hope you can get an answer.

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** It will be better than the question.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, the question is precise and specific, and I hope that the minister will have an answer that is equally precise and specific. Does the government stand by its budget projection of a 2.2 per cent real growth in the GNP for the year 1982? I ask the question in view of the fact that the Toronto Dominion Bank and the Bank of Montreal both predict a 0.6 per cent rate of growth in the GNP for 1982. The highly respected Data Resources Limited predicts a rate of growth of minus 0.2 per cent. I also ask this question about the projected rate of growth in 1982 in view of the fact that Mr. MacEachen, in his November budget, predicted that the 1981 growth rate would reach 3.6 per cent. In actual fact, it appears to have been no higher than 3 per cent.

**Senator Olson:** Yes, honourable senators, I have heard the precision of the question, but the honourable senator failed to include one or two other factors. One is that the projection made by the same people a little more than a year ago was also wrong—more so than the projection made by the Minister of Finance.

● (1410)

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I think they were precisely wrong.

**Senator Olson:** Yes, they were precisely wrong. The Minister of Finance did admit something which these people do not seem to have the courage to admit themselves, and that is that he underestimated the growth in the last quarter of 1980 and the first quarter of 1981. I believe the figures will indicate that we had approximately 3 per cent real growth in 1981, most of