

**Senator Roblin:** Inflation was wrestled to the ground by Prime Minister Trudeau approximately 10 years ago and, unfortunately, it re-emerged.

**Senator Frith:** It has been going down since.

## THE BUDGET

### DATE OF PRESENTATION

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, my question relates to the timing of the budget. I do not expect the Leader of the Government in the Senate to be specific, but would it be fair to assume, given his concern for a sound economic policy, that the budget will be brought down early enough so that the major measures eventuating from that budget can be dealt with before the summer adjournment?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** My honourable friend can make any assumptions he likes, but the Minister of Finance will tell us when the budget is coming down, and not me.

**Senator Stewart:** Is it open to be assumed that it will come down so late that the major measures cannot be dealt with before the summer adjournment? That is the clear implication. I hope that is not too complicated a proposition in logic for my honourable friend.

**Senator Roblin:** I think I can just barely cope with it. I understand what my honourable friend is driving at. I recall, however, that some of the measures proposed in the budget—was it my honourable friend's budget or the one after?—took 18 months or 2 years to become part of the law of the country. In fact, some of the measures never did become part of the law of the country.

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Thank God!

**Senator Stewart:** Change!

**Senator Roblin:** My honourable friend says "change" and I agree with him, and the change is going to be for the better.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I have a non-controversial question that won't exercise the Leader of the Government. Are we still on the April target announced by the Prime Minister for the budget?

**Senator Roblin:** The Minister of Finance will deal with the question of timing when he is able to do so. I am sorry but I cannot add anything further to that.

**Senator MacEachen:** The April target is not necessarily in place now. It becomes irrelevant.

**Senator Roblin:** The man to answer that question is the Minister of Finance, not me.

## CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

### MEETING IN QUEBEC CITY—ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL

**Hon. Eymard G. Corbin:** Honourable senators, I have a follow-up question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate in response to an earlier question raised by Senator Stewart. Senator Roblin said that Senator Stewart's assumptions were not correct. I should like to know on what basis the government leader is making that kind of affirmation when, on the one hand, earlier he said the matter of Her Excellency was a private matter; on the other hand, he is backhand turning down assumptions honourable senators are making in this chamber with respect to impoliteness offered to Her Excellency. Would it not be convenient for the Leader of the Government or his party leader once and for all to make a public statement with regard to this matter, in view of the fact that the Parliament of Canada consists of Her Excellency the Governor General, the Senate and the House of Commons? The Canadian public is not just confused but flabbergasted at the incident which took place surrounding the so-called Quebec summit. I would certainly expect—in fact, I would demand—that the government clear this matter up once and for all for the information of members of Parliament generally as well as for the general public.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, my honourable friend is correct in stating that Parliament consists of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Commons, but he should go further and say that the executive advisers to the Queen or to Her Excellency the Governor General are members of the federal Cabinet, not Parliament itself. That is the way our system works. I have nothing further to say on this matter.

**Senator Corbin:** Honourable senators, a few moments ago the Leader of the Government was accusing Senator Stewart of counting angels on the head of a pin. Things are what they are because they are that way, and because the Constitution says they are that way, but surely, on an occasion as auspicious as the visit of a head of state, to have ignored Her Excellency is an insult to the whole institution of Parliament of which Her Majesty the Queen is a part, as well as to her representative in Canada.

● (1520)

I feel strongly that we are entitled to a fuller explanation—not excuses, but a downright explanation of what has taken place, in the circumstances. This is fundamental to the good operation of the whole institution.

**Senator Roblin:** My honourable friend is raising a matter that has been dealt with now for the third time. I give him the same answer as I gave the other questioners.

## THE LATE KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO

### GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL

**Hon. Jerahmiel S. Grafstein:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate on another matter of protocol.