

what periods of time the government has in mind for looking at this matter.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have every expectation of making a considerable speech this afternoon on this topic and I shall remember, in the course of my remarks, to deal with the point raised.

**Senator Sinclair:** I have a supplementary question, honourable senators. If the word "monitor" has the connotation I think it has, it means "to do something continuously." Also, I would like to know how much additional revenue would be required to have the government change its attitude and carry out its promises to the elderly people of Canada.

**Senator Roblin:** The whole question of the economic situation we face and its impact on old age pensions will be highlighted in my remarks this afternoon.

**Senator Sinclair:** Honourable senators, this chamber recognizes, as I am sure do the people of Canada, that the elderly people in this country are a particular group and are not in the same position as Canadians generally. As I said yesterday, they have had their salad days and therefore must be looked upon from a different point of view, rather than as being part of the economic woof. They cannot make the contribution that my friend is talking about.

**Senator Roblin:** I think I am going to partially agree with my honourable friend, if he will stick around and see what I have to say this afternoon.

**Senator Sinclair:** I may not be able to stick around.

#### DE-INDEXATION OF PENSIONS—POSITION OF CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

**Hon. Earl A. Hastings:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Let me say that we shall be anxiously awaiting his speech this afternoon.

I notice that the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has joined that multitude who are condemning the government with respect to their actions on de-indexation of old age pensions. On hearing that, I really had to check my position. I thought perhaps I had made a mistake, but it is nice to welcome them aboard.

My question pertains to the Canadian Petroleum Association, that vociferous spokesman of the multinationals, who were treated handsomely and, if I can use the word, liberally, in that same budget, and has such an alleged deep and profound social conscience. I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether the government has received any representation from the Canadian Petroleum Association with respect to the intention of the government to de-index old age pensions.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I think I will be better able to answer that after I have read my honourable friend's report on energy, in which he will be dealing with the

[Senator Sinclair.]

position of these "rapacious" oil companies that he has mentioned.

**Senator Flynn:** You cannot mix oranges and apples.

#### DE-INDEXATION OF PENSIONS—PRESS RELEASE BY PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question. I think we all received a press release within the last few days from Mrs. Yhetta Gold, the President of the National Advisory Council on Aging, who I believe is from Manitoba as well. In it she indicates that the current plans for de-indexing are going to provide a short-term saving in exchange for a long-term loss. She says:

More and more senior Canadians will find it difficult to cope with a deteriorating physical, mental and social condition. In time, expenditures for other types of care will limit the savings due to de-indexing.

I wonder if the Leader of the Government could tell us whether he will deal with this in his speech, or could he tell us what kind of response Mr. Epp has given to Mrs. Gold?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I would like to tantalize my honourable friend by suggesting that she, too, remain in her place, and she will hear what I have to say on that subject. I am probably overlooking very few of the observations that have been made in respect of this problem.

**Senator Olson:** You are supposed to answer questions in Question Period.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ALLEGED CONDUCT OF FORMER CORPORAL

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I doubt that he will be dealing with this in his heralded speech this afternoon, although anything is possible.

My question deals with the Solicitor General and former Corporal Jim Wood. There has been a suggestion that Mr. Wood, a former corporal in the RCMP, used to leak information to Mr. MacKay when he was in opposition.

**Senator Perrault:** Shame!

**Senator Frith:** The allegation is that Mr. Wood has now been rewarded by being appointed to the Canadian Pension Commission. The difficulty is that nothing I have read about it deals with the direct question of whether or not Mr. Wood did, in fact, as is alleged, leak information to Mr. MacKay. When Mr. MacKay was asked about it he said:

I've known Jim Wood off and on for over a few years—as I have many other members of the force.

This was outside the chamber.

He has always served his country well in his function as an RCMP member, and I'm sure he'll continue this solid record of public service in his new position.