

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 22, 1994

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

Prayers.

[Later]

SENATOR'S STATEMENT

THE ECONOMY

EFFECT OF TAXATION ON STANDARD OF LIVING

Hon. Gerry St. Germain: Honourable senators, my statement today is as a result of a message I received from Mr. Gary Herman of British Columbia. Mr. Herman is part of the employee relations group of a major forestry operation in the Province of British Columbia. Since it is budget day, I think it appropriate that his message be on the record:

These are most difficult times. Years ago when we negotiated a raise, we saw full benefit and gained on our standard of living. Nowadays, we seem to receive more money, but are falling further behind. With more taxes, higher tax brackets, hidden taxes, G.S.T., federal, municipal and provincial taxes, it almost seems we would be further ahead to refuse the raise.

We are trying a new system at our operation. It is called — "Working Together." We are working with management to create a more productive, efficient, safer, recovery oriented, profitable, harmonious atmosphere.

With co-operation from both union and management, it is our belief that if we share our ideas and become the best operation in our industry, our jobs will be secure and management will gain the reputation in the marketplace for a quality, dependable product.

Perhaps, there is a valuable lesson to be learned here. If we, as Canadians, would work together to make Canada the best country in the world, to have our products recognized as of the highest standard, to have our name "Canada" stand for quality, we could create full circle employment.

As individual Canadians, (taxpayers) we are accountable to pay our bills and taxes — unfortunately, we are one of the highest taxed countries in the world. As a result, our standard of living has been reduced. It is high time for the government to restrain its spending, reduce taxes so we can gain back the standard of living which we once enjoyed. The individual taxpayer can spend dollars much more efficiently than the government. The amount of waste generated by the government is a tragedy to the individual

taxpayer, never mind what it does to the country and the future of our children. In short, we need lower taxes. The government is making hard-working people into tax evaders. Enough is enough!

In order for us to believe in our country, we must all work together to save this most beautiful, free, wonderful nation called "Canada." We have to trust in our governments. We have to share our ideas. We have to make our operations successful and profitable not only for our security, but for Canada's!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FISHERIES

FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE TABLED

Hon. Eileen Rossiter: Honourable senators, pursuant to rule 105 of the *Rules of the Senate*, I have the honour to table the first report of the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries, which deals with the expenses incurred by the committee during the Third Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament.

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

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

FIXED LINK—NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, February 24, 1994, I will move:

An amendment to the Constitution of Canada respecting the Schedule to the Prince Edward Island Terms of Union concerning a fixed crossing joining the Island to the mainland.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE FUTURE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, February 24, 1994, I will move that the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be authorized to examine and report upon the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and that the committee present its report no later than October 31, 1994.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL— NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, February 24, 1994, I will call the attention of