

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

AUDITOR GENERAL 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-83, to amend the Auditor General Act.

Bill read first time.

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

On motion of Senator Graham, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday, December 5, 1995.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TREATY COMMISSION BILL

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-107, respecting the establishment of the British Columbia Treaty Commission.

Bill read first time.

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

On motion of Senator Graham, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday, December 5, 1995.

CRIMINAL CODE

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

Hon. Anne C. Cools presented Bill S-13, to amend the Criminal Code of Canada (abuse of process).

Bill read first time.

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

On motion of Senator Cools, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday, December 5, 1995.

QUESTION PERIOD

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

CORNWALLIS PARK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY— SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATION BY AUDITOR GENERAL INTO ALLEGATIONS OF MISMANAGEMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Gerald J. Comeau: Honourable senators, as you may be aware, my colleague Senator Forrestall had written to the

Auditor General requesting an investigation into the activities of the Cornwallis Park Development Agency. Given that serious questions have been raised about the management of the agency, or should I say the mismanagement of taxpayers' money at the agency, and the recent allegations regarding the removal of assets from the base, would the Leader of the Government in the Senate consider lending her support to my colleague in his request for an investigation?

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I would prefer to await the Auditor General's response to Senator Forrestall.

Senator Comeau: Honourable senators, given that there have been delays due to certain questions, given the urgency that this matter be resolved, and given the Prime Minister's promise during the last election that the base would not be closed, would the honourable leader not consider it timely that this investigation be conducted as quickly as possible so that the agency can get on with providing jobs for the people of this community who badly need jobs? By lending her support, I suggest that the investigation might be completed more quickly.

Senator Fairbairn: Honourable senators, as we discussed in Question Period a while back, there have been investigations through ACOA. I have a great deal of confidence in the Auditor General's position and judgment on issues of this nature. I would prefer to await his response to my colleague's request.

VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I wish to draw your attention to some visitors in our gallery representing the Arab Canadian Women's Association of Canada.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

POINTS OF ORDER

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, before Orders of the Day are called, our rules provide that points of order can only be raised following Routine Proceedings. Nevertheless, the Speaker did accept that Senator Phillips raise a point of order and that Senator Carstairs reply to it during the proceedings.

However, we do not have a copy of Senator Carstairs' motion before us. Our objection is based only on what we have heard. We would want to discuss the point of order after we have seen the text of her motion.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I believe that copies are being made, and will be distributed.