

understood that you would keep your promises. But they now know—

**An Hon. Senator:** Ask your question.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Question!

**Senator Hastings:** They now know that you will not be keeping your promises. You have broken this promise to the old age pensioners.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Question!

**Senator Hastings:** You mentioned the fact that the multinationals came down here with jobs, jobs, jobs. But we know it was profits, profits, profits that they want—and that is what they got from you. My question is: Will you—yes or no—honour that promise your leader made to the old age pensioners in Sherbrooke on July 26, 1984?

**An Hon. Senator:** What have you got against profits?

**Senator Roblin:** I am just wondering whether my honourable friend thinks that there is any relationship between jobs and profits.

**Senator Frith:** There is the answer.

**Senator Roblin:** Apparently not. He doesn't really think there is.

**Senator Frith:** That is not the question he asked.

**Senator Roblin:** Well, I do not know whether that is the prevailing sentiment in his own province, but I rather doubt it. Not that profits should be the be-all and the end-all of any government's activity. Far from it. But if we want to encourage the private sector, the sector that is the real job creator in this country, we must recognize the role of profits.

As for his question, I have answered it to the best of my ability. I will advance not an inch beyond that.

**An Hon. Senator:** Still no answer.

**Senator Hastings:** Let me answer your question.

**An Hon. Senator:** You have asked your question.

**Senator Hastings:** You asked me whether there was any relationship between jobs and profits. If there is a relationship, why did the multinationals, which piled up record profits in 1984, need more profits to create jobs?

**Senator Roblin:** Well, I would like to see the report of the committee which my honourable friend chairs on the National Energy Program first. Once I see that, I think I will be prepared to debate this business of profits with him.

**An Hon. Senator:** Answer the question.

**Senator Frith:** That is not the question.

**Senator Roblin:** You can ask the question. It is my choice whether to answer it or not.

**Senator Frith:** So, you are admitting that you have not answered the question.

**Senator Roblin:** I answered as best I can.

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** I wonder whether the Leader of the Government would deal with a question.

**Senator Roblin:** I will do my best with it.

**Senator Flynn:** Why don't you participate in the debate?

**Senator Frith:** He can do both.

**Senator Stewart:** Well, Senator Flynn is trying to bedevil the house again today.

The Leader of the Government puts a good deal of emphasis upon the monitoring of the effect of this partial de-indexation. Would he tell us what specific data will be taken into consideration in this monitoring.

What are the factors that might change the decision of the government? Is it an increase in inflation, the interest rate? What are the various factors that would bear upon a decision to change the present policy of the government after a monitoring date or point had been passed?

**Senator Roblin:** I am not going to pretend to answer my friend's question with any great degree of precision. He understands as well as I do the difficulty in doing so in these circumstances. But I can say to him that the first thing that has to be considered is a careful review of what the effect of this is on old age pensioners.

It might be all very well, as I have said in my remarks today, to say that it is only 17 cents a day in 1986, but I do not overlook the fact that it might be an awful lot different the following year, and the year after that, and the year after that. And the effect of those changes must certainly be part of the monitoring process.

The other thing that has to be part of the monitoring process is the state of the economy and the capacity of the public treasury to do better in terms of the social welfare policies.

On motion of Senator Petten, debate adjourned.

## INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

### POSTPONEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, a meeting of the Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration Committee was scheduled for today when the Senate adjourns. Senator Charbonneau is not able to be here, which would mean that I would be chairing that meeting. I have consulted with Senator Doody on the matter and have decided that, given the time, that meeting should be postponed until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. I do not yet have the room number. We will see that honourable senators are notified as to the location of that meeting later this evening or first thing tomorrow morning.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.