

THE SENATE

Wednesday, May 8, 1974

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

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Leopold Langlois tabled:

Copies of a Report by the Chairman of the Public Service Staff Relations Board, dated May 1974, entitled "Employer-Employee Relations in the Public Service of Canada, Proposals for Legislative Change, Part III".

Report of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1973, pursuant to section 13 of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act, Chapter F-25, R.S.C., 1970.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Leopold Langlois: Honourable senators, I move, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 21, 1974, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: You are skipping a week, aren't you?

Hon. Mr. Langlois: You shouldn't complain.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Langlois, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), that when the Senate adjourns today it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, May 21, 1974, at 8 o'clock in the evening. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: On division.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Honourable senators, we cannot adopt a motion like that blindfolded. We should have an explanation from the Acting Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Argue: We should have a vote.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: Honourable senators, this motion speaks for itself. It is an adjournment of two weeks from today. I might say that this is the first time the Leader of the Opposition has complained about an unusual adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Well, it is the first time that we have had an unusual adjournment.

Honourable senators, despite the clarity of the statement just made by the acting leader, I cannot understand the motion. We were here on Friday "just in case"; we were here on Monday "just in case"; we were here yesterday "just in case" and we are here today "just in case." I do not see why we should not be here tomorrow "just in

case." It seems that something we do not know about must be going on in the mind of the Acting Leader of the Government; but I really wonder if we should not be here tomorrow "just in case."

Hon. Mr. Langlois: We are just playing it safe.

Hon. Mr. Bourget: Yes, in case you are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Asselin: We will not be.

Hon. Mr. Bourget: Just in case; we don't know.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Suppose, Senator Bourget, that I am wrong. I am sure I will not be, but suppose I am wrong, do you not think we should be here tomorrow to deal with urgent matters which might come from the other place?

Hon. Mr. Asselin: Just in case.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Just in case, yes.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: I should remind the Leader of the Opposition that these adjournments are always subject to recall.

Hon. Mr. Argue: I cannot see the purpose of this motion.

Hon. Mr. Bourget: You, too?

Hon. Mr. Argue: I think it is a little silly. It makes the Senate look silly, because the Senate is saying that if the government is sustained the Senate is going to have a two-week adjournment. I think that at the conclusion of our sitting today we should have an ordinary motion to adjourn until tomorrow and just let events over in the other place take care of themselves. We do not have to bring in motions like this, which are basically meaningless.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: We have received complaints in the past that we were recalling the Senate unnecessarily—"just in case," as the Leader of the Opposition has just said. But the Leader of the Opposition and my honourable friend Senator Argue should recognize that if the government stays in power after tonight, the House of Commons will debate the budget, with the result that we will not receive any legislation for quite some time. This motion is made in the light of these circumstances. I do not know why the senator calls it silly. Does he want to remain here for nothing?

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh!

Hon. Mr. Langlois: May I finish, please? If any legislation should come to us from the other place, the Senate will be recalled. As I have already explained, these motions to adjourn are always made on the understanding that the Senate is subject to recall. There is nothing abnormal about it.

Motion agreed to.