THE SENATE

Thursday, October 13, 1983

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

Prayers.

CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION—REPORT OF STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS ON SUBJECT MATTER TABLED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

Hon. Joan Neiman: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the subject matter of the Constitution Amendment Proclamation, 1983. I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Debates of the Senate* and the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day and form part of the permanent records of this house.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For text of report see Appendix "A", p. 6055.)

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): May I ask when this item will be taken into consideration by the Senate? I believe some of us would like to debate it.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Senator Neiman: Honourable senators, I move that the report be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

REPORT OF STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ON SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-155 TABLED AND PRINTED AS APPENDIX

Hon. Léopold Langlois: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications on the subject matter of Bill C-155. I ask that the report be printed as an appendix to the *Debates of the Senate* and the *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate* of this day and form part of the permanent records of this house.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(For text of report see Appendix "B", p. 6059.)

[*Translation*]

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1)(*g*), that when the Senate adjourns today, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 18, 1983, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I would like to enquire of the government with respect to some aspects of their economic policy. My question arises from the fact that the projections of that policy, which were outlined by the Minister of Finance when he presented his budget last April, have now been subject to some re-examination after a lapse of six months. We note that several bodies that are entitled to some public credence have produced figures with respect to economic forecasts which vary markedly from those the minister laid down last April, in that they are a good deal less optimistic than the minister was and, I believe, still is with respect to such items as increase in the gross national product, the reduction in the rate of inflation, and the reduction of unemployment in the country.

I would like the government to tell us whether they are now prepared to re-examine the forecast laid down by the minister last April, and whether they are prepared to produce measures to adjust their economic and budgetary policies accordingly.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, there can be an honest and sincere difference of opinion with respect to the conclusions Senator Roblin has attempted to express in the preamble to his question. I must say that I disagree with him. All ministers in the cabinet examine the various economic indicators and compare them with the projections made by the Minister of Finance in his budget prognostications of last April, and those economic indicators are very close to the forecasts made at that time. In fact, in several areas—and I do not recall them because I do not have the numbers in front of me right now—the economy has performed somewhat better than the forecasts.