

Government. One deals with that particular person who suggested that the rotten fish, unfit for human consumption, should be sent to Ethiopia. Could the Leader of the Government, without identifying that person to us, assign him to Mr. David MacDonald, a civilized and decent man, who refused the rotten tuna, but who might nevertheless accept the rotten public official and instil some Christian charity in him? That is my question, sir.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I do not believe I am called upon to answer a question of that nature. Let me have the honourable senator's second question.

### LAW REFORM COMMISSION

#### TREATMENT OF BIGAMY AND POLYGAMY

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** My question is less solemn than the previous one but perhaps quite worrying.

[*Translation*]

The Committee on Law Reform has just recommended that bigamy remain an offence under the Criminal Code, but not polygamy.

It seems illogical to me that it should be illegal to have two wives, but legal to have three or more.

I would like to speak on behalf of my female colleagues here in the Senate—

**Senator LeBlanc:** It costs too much!

**Senator Gigantès:** But three will cost still more. So they say it is legal to have three wives.

They allow polygamy, which means a man can have many wives. I have the dictionary, in case you have any doubt. On the other hand, they do not mention polyandry, which allows a woman to have many husbands at the same time.

I consider that a sexist position. Would the Leader of the Government kindly ask the Minister of Justice that he request a private conversation with Members of the Committee on Law Reform to explain all those things to them.

[*English*]

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I am interested to know that my honourable friend appears to be on the verge of recommending polyandry. I am not sure whether or not that was his intention, but I gather that to be the drift of his question.

If the honourable senator has any comments he would like to make to the Law Reform Commission, there is nothing to prevent him, as a member of the Senate, from addressing those profound matters to that body directly.

**Senator Gigantès:** The Leader of the Government knows well that there are many of us here who unfortunately might not be able to perform all the duties necessary in a monogamous or, indeed, monandrous marriage and might therefore suggest polyandry out of the kindness of our hearts.

● (1430)

### CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

#### COMBINES AND TRUST COMPANIES LEGISLATION

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. In view of the increasing trend in Canada toward mergers and acquisitions of major corporations, including publicly funded corporations, companies and even financial institutions such as Canada Trustco, which is worrying a lot of economists because of possible harm to the Canadian economy, will the federal government bring in, without delay, a new combines act, or amendments to the present one, and a new trust companies act?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I have to report to my honourable friend that ever since I first entered this chamber, a combines act has been on the verge of being enacted by Parliament. Yet, after seven or eight years—I believe it is seven years—sometimes it seems a little shorter than that—no such legislation has been passed by Parliament. However, that does not mean that it will not happen. I can tell my honourable friend that my colleague, the minister who has responsibility for such matters, has been working on a new version of combines legislation and that it will be forthcoming. It is awaiting its place in the legislative queue at the present time. I hope we will receive it within a reasonable timeframe.

The matter of trust companies is now under consideration by the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. It is considering the whole question of trust companies and I rather fancy that my honourable friend's point is included in what the committee is looking into. If he would be so kind as to check with that committee, perhaps he will receive further information on the matter.

### BANKING

#### COLLAPSE OF CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK—ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF DOCUMENT INDICATING DIFFICULTY

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I have one or two questions for the Leader of the Government in the Senate which, I trust, are of a sufficiently general nature that he will not assign their answering to a committee that is to meet at some indeterminate time in the future. We have been told by members of the government that a request had been made to the Federal Reserve Board in the United States seeking a copy of a document which, allegedly, gave the first signal of difficulty in the Canadian Commercial Bank and that the document had not been forthcoming. Today we read that the Federal Reserve Board is reported to have said that no request had been made but that if such a request were made the document would be available. I wonder if the Leader of the Government can throw some light on what appears to be conflicting information on that matter.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I shall astonish my honourable friend by giving him a concise and precise answer.