

Senator Lynch-Staunton: You should have thought of that in 1982.

Senator Olson: We thought about it in 1982. I want to tell you something about the lies that the Prime Minister of this country has perpetuated across this country respecting what happened in 1982. It is a disgrace that I hope he will carry to his grave. What he says happened in 1982 is that somehow Quebec was left out. That is simply not true. I was there. Who else was there? A man by the name of Pierre Elliott Trudeau who has said just this week that what the Prime Minister is saying about all of that is a damned lie. It is not true.

Senator Barootes: That is pretty strong language.

Senator Olson: That is pretty good language. It was meant to be at least as strong as it sounded.

Senator Barootes: It is not very parliamentary to call people liars.

Senator Olson: I did not say he was a liar. I said the statement he made was a damned lie. That is what I said.

Senator Barootes: It is the same thing.

Senator Olson: No, it is not the same thing. I refer the honourable senator to a debate that took place in November of 1957 when this subject was debated to the point where it was determined that there was a difference. It is an important enough difference that it becomes parliamentary. Perhaps the honourable senator should look that up. It would perhaps assist his view of what is parliamentary and what is not.

Senator Murray: This is on monetary policy, is it?

Senator Olson: Yes, monetary policy. What my inquiry states is that your government has made a mess of governing Canada, does it not?

Senator Murray: Not quite.

Senator Olson: It states:

... calling the attention of the Senate to the Government's mismanagement of the economy and particularly monetary policy.

That is true.

I wish to caution honourable senators that we will have far more serious trouble in this country than they might think if they continue to treat Western Canada, and in particular Alberta and British Columbia, in that manner. You should be joining the other side of this debate in this referendum or there will be another, more serious "or else".

● (1720)

Senator Murray: We had that vote while you were in Geneva.

Senator Olson: I know you had that vote. I am telling you what I found out since I came back from Geneva. By the way, I will make another speech before long about what I heard in Geneva. You might not like that, although it is far more encouraging than what you have been saying to me lately.

I want to thank honourable senators for their indulgence in giving me a little more time to speak on this matter, but I want you to know that we are walking on very dangerous ground. With all of the goodwill that Western Canadians have shown towards Canadians in the rest of the country, this situation is becoming just a little more than they can swallow. Be careful.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: If no other senator wishes to speak on this subject, this inquiry is considered debated.

AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT STUDY

Hon. Efstathios William Barootes, pursuant to notice of September 16, 1992, moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry be authorized to undertake a special study on farm safety and farm related health issues.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: Could we have an explanation, please.

Senator Barootes: I thank you, honourable senators, for the opportunity to explain the reason for this motion.

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada. According to Dr. James Dosman, Director of the Centre for Agricultural Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan,

More farmers are killed each year than miners; they are just not all in the same place at the same time.

The fatality rate on farms is thought to be higher than in the construction industry, and involves, unfortunately, a proportionately higher percentage of young and elderly people.

Hazards on the farm arise from a number of sources and can result in risk to physical health and even death. Chemical use on the farm, both fertilizers and pesticides, are a hazard if improperly used or stored, or used without the proper protective equipment.

Machinery represents another hazard, since most fatal injuries are thought to arise from machinery use. This situation exists despite design changes that have resulted, for example, in roll-over protection and other changes to power takeoffs.

Further, noise is a factor associated with the operation of farm machinery and is a major cause of hearing impairment associated with intensive animal husbandry.

Waste collection disposal is another area of concern, given the accumulation of toxic gases.

Well-designed containment systems for livestock could reduce the risk to the farmer associated with being trapped between his animal and the side of a barn or the side of a stock gate. Facilities could be designed to avoid this.