

Senator Flynn: It is of no concern to you, as such. I have cleared my problem with Senator Gigantès. He has said that he does not want to look like me. I am happy that he said that, and that should be the end of the matter.

Senator McElman: Honourable senators, the matter is not only of concern to me; it is of concern to all senators and it is of concern to all Canadians, when someone uses his place in this chamber to make a remark that should not be made and leaves an inference that should not be left. I was trying to do the courteous thing to my honourable friend and give him an opportunity to say that he meant no affront to any new Canadian.

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, I made that clear. The affront was only to Senator Gigantès. I said he does not know much about Canada and he does not know much about Quebec. I repeat that that was all that I meant, and that is the end of it. I do not see why you should question my view. If you don't like it, you can lump it!

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, since I am, unfortunately, involved in this controversy with Senator Flynn, I should like to point out that he did not say that I did not know, except when he said it the second time. Originally, he said I didn't look like himself, presumably—in other words, an older Canadian, which, of course, I grant immediately.

He also suggested something about Quebec, and I concede immediately that, although I am a Quebecer, I am not what he would call de vieille souche francophone. I bitterly regret that my blood is tainted!

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

INCLUSION OF CANADA'S FRESH WATER RESOURCE

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, perhaps I might change the subject and get Senator Flynn off the hook, which I am always doing for him.

Senator Flynn: You are going to hang yourself!

Senator Bonnell: I would not hang either myself or Senator Flynn; he is too good a friend of mine.

However, honourable senators, I should like to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I understand that one of the greatest resources of this country is being given away to the United States of America under tariff clause 22.01 of the Free Trade Agreement—namely, our fresh water resource.

Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate confirm that in fact the fresh water of Canada is part of the Free Trade Agreement? In the past it has been denied by others that water was included in this agreement. However, apparently under tariff clause 22.01, water is included in the agreement.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable

[Senator Petten.]

senators, I can only say that the interpretation on which the honourable senator is basing his question is really nonsense.

Having said that, when the vote comes I invite him to vote in favour of the reference of the bill to the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs so that he will have an opportunity to satisfy himself as to the agreement and the bill that would give it effect in this country.

Senator Bonnell: Honourable senators, I notice that the Leader of the Government in the Senate has not made a denial in this matter. I also note that a recent article in the *Toronto Star* stated:

According to former federal trade negotiator Mel Clark and Don Gamble, executive director of the Rawson Academy of Aquatic Science, a non-profit water research body, it could mean that the provisions of the trade deal override federal or provincial restrictions on the export of water.

Honourable senators, since water is a resource and we must sell our resources to the Americans at the same price as we charge Canadians, and since we do not charge Canadians for fresh water, we then have to give our fresh water free to the Americans.

I would therefore like the Leader of the Government in the Senate to confirm or deny that we are giving away our richest resource—namely, our fresh water—to the Americans.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I have said that the interpretation upon which the honourable senator based his question is nonsense. May I add to that that the assertions and the assumptions that the honourable senator is making are so farfetched as to be ludicrous. As I said, I invite him to satisfy himself on those points by accelerating the reference of this bill to the Foreign Affairs Committee for pre-study so that he can go into this matter in all the detail he would like and obtain the answers he is seeking.

● (1420)

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question. Will the Leader of the Government answer the question? Is the fresh water resource included in the negotiations we are now committed to with the United States or is it not? Never mind all the gobbledegook of going to other things. Did you negotiate fresh water deliveries to the United States or did you not?

Senator Murray: No.

Senator Olson: Then why didn't you say so?

Senator Bonnell: Honourable senators, the minister has just said that our water resources are not part of the agreement. I ask that he read, in his spare time, tariff clause 22.01 of the tariff schedule to the agreement, which includes water.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I have answered the question. I do suggest that my friend take advantage of an early opportunity to ask detailed questions about the agreement and about the bill.