

I will keep you informed as best I can as the week proceeds. It may be, depending on what happens in the other place, that we will have to come back on April 12 rather than April 19. As soon as I have information, I will inform you.

POINT OF ORDER

CONTRAVENTION OF RULE 26

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to raise a point of order. I believe this is the first point at which one can do so after Question Period.

We witnessed again tonight an unusual transformation of the Question Period into a debate period. We had two outstanding violations of the very rule Senator Lynch-Staunton and others constantly accused me of breaking. They said that preambles should be short, yet Senator Lynch-Staunton's preamble today was longer than five minutes. I never got that far in my entire parliamentary career. Then it was Senator Doyle's turn, and I saw at least two full pages of notes from here. There could have been more.

I raise this point of order because, although I like to hear about these things, there is a limit, and they went entirely beyond it tonight. Perhaps the problem is that Senator Kelly has not been around to keep them in order, as he used to do for me, but tonight they went entirely too far.

Hon. Gerald R. Ottenheimer: Honourable senators, on the point of order, I would just quote for His Honour's guidance a line from Beauchesne, and it may well be in scripture too: "Let not the kettle call the pot black."

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition): Along the same lines, honourable senators, I do not mind being admonished by Senator Olson regarding the length of my preambles. He is quite right. But at least I ask my questions.

Hon. Noël A. Kinsella: Honourable senators, on the point of order, doubtless my predecessor in the roll of whip was from a different school, and on the other side of the house, but this speaks to the question of what constitutes a preamble. There is a distinction between giving a preamble and setting the context of a question. A preamble gives guidance on the intent of the legislation which the preamble generally precedes. However, the alleged preambles that I heard this evening — and perhaps the Leader of the Government in the Senate would agree — did not meet the test of a preamble, for they did not necessarily shed any great light on the substance of the questions that followed.

Senator Frith: And neither a kettle nor a pot knows the difference.

[Senator Molgat]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

FIXED LINK—AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Molgat, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hébert:

That whereas section 43 of the Constitution Act, 1982 provides that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and House of Commons and of the legislative assembly of each province to which the amendment applies;

Now therefore the Senate resolves that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada be authorized to be made by proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada in accordance with the schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

I. The Schedule to the *Prince Edward Island Terms of Union* is amended by adding thereto, after the portion that reads

"And such other charges as may be incident to, and connected with, the services which by the 'British North America Act, 1867' appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces;"

the following:

"That a fixed crossing joining the Island to the mainland may be substituted for the steam service referred to in this Schedule;

That, for greater certainty, nothing in this Schedule prevents the imposition of tolls for the use of such a fixed crossing between the Island and the mainland, or the private operation of such a crossing."

Citation

2. This Amendment may be cited as the *Constitution Amendment, 1993 (Prince Edward Island)*.

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, —

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I would advise the Senate that if Senator Fairbairn speaks now, her speech will end the debate on this issue.