

A Clerk at the Table:

Wednesday, June 10, 1987

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has the honour to present its

THIRD REPORT

Your Committee, which was authorized by the Senate on May 6, 1987, to examine and report upon Farm Finance to assess the gravity of the current problems facing the Canadian Agricultural Industry, to consider the degree to which existing government policy and programs have been successful in meeting their objectives and to make recommendations on how to better meet the needs of the Canadian Agricultural Industry,—

Some Hon. Senators: Dispense.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I would like to have the report read.

A Clerk at the Table:

—respectfully requests that it be empowered (i) to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary for the purpose of such study, and (ii) to adjourn from place to place within and outside Canada for the purpose of such study.

Pursuant to Section 2:07 of the *Procedural Guidelines for the Financial Operation of Senate Committees* the budget submitted to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration and the report thereon of that Committee are appended to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL HAYS
Chairman

(For text of appendices to report, see p. 1209.)

● (1410)

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

Senator Hays: Honourable senators, with leave, I move that the report be taken into consideration now.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Duff Roblin: Honourable senators, I think it would be appropriate to let us have a chance to read the report before it is debated.

Senator Hays: Honourable senators, I am sorry, I did not hear Senator Roblin.

Senator Roblin: I would much prefer if it were dealt with at the next sitting of the Senate and not now.

Senator Hays: Honourable senators, I have not had an opportunity to speak to the deputy chairman about this, but if

[The Hon. the Speaker.]

the matter could be adjourned in his name, so that it can be dealt with during my absence next week, that would be appropriate.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: What about tomorrow, that is, at the next sitting of the Senate?

Senator Hays: Very well.

On motion of Senator Hays, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CANADA-FRANCE FISHERIES AND BOUNDARIES AGREEMENT

CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—
AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE AS WITNESS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, yesterday Senator Phillips, in his address to the Senate, referred to the examination of the Canada-France fisheries and boundaries agreement by the Committee of the Whole. His intervention brought to mind that that subject still remains an item of unfinished business that takes on additional urgency in light of the announcement that the French are now proposing to undertake explorations in the disputed zone off St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Honourable senators, the steering committee had been interested in securing the evidence of Mr. Lucien Bouchard, the Canadian Ambassador to France. However, at that time we were notified by the department that Mr. Bouchard was deeply involved in the preparations for the visit to Canada of President Mitterrand and could not attend. I wonder whether the Leader of the Government would assist us in determining whether Ambassador Bouchard could come to the committee now so that we could get a French perspective on these developments. I know that when he was in Ottawa, the ambassador made himself available to the party caucuses, and I thought that it would strengthen our hand in having him appear before the Senate Committee of the Whole, in view of his availability to address the Liberal caucus, the NDP caucus and, I presume, the Conservative caucus.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for reminding me that I had agreed to convey to our colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the considerable interest of honourable senators in hearing Ambassador Bouchard. I did follow through on that undertaking, and I did send a message to my colleague, but I have not yet heard back, and I will make inquiries shortly.