

Senator Roblin: If my honourable friend wishes to pursue that topic, he should enter an order for return on the table of the house.

THE SENATE

QUESTION PERIOD—"ORDER FOR RETURN"—POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, Senator Roblin has used this expression "order for return" on several occasions. I do not recognize that as a term that describes procedures in the Senate. I know there is a provision for questions that require extra information to be given in writing. I think that is the rule. However, I do not think that there is such an expression as "order for return" except that there is a provision for asking a minister for return. I remember that, about four or five years ago, we had that situation arise on one occasion with a senator from New Brunswick where he was asking for the production of documents that were in the custody of a minister.

Perhaps this is merely a misunderstanding and that what Senator Roblin means is that it should be treated as a written question or that he would take the question as notice.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I think my honourable friend is right in saying that I intend my answer to imply that the matter should be converted into a written question. I used the expression "order for return" because that sticks in my mind as being a description of a written question. If it is not the case, I am sure that the Clerk of the Senate can straighten both of us out and advise my honourable friend of the correct procedure to be followed.

● (1420)

Senator Frith: I think you followed the correct procedure. It is just a matter of vocabulary.

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—1983 STABILIZATION PAYMENT— REQUEST FOR ANSWER

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn: Honourable senators, yesterday we asked whether or not under the Agricultural Stabilization Act the government had decided to make a payment for the 1983 sugar-beet crop. I wonder if the Leader of the Government in the Senate can tell us whether or not a decision has been made to make the payment.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am rather flattered that my honourable friend thinks that I can get an answer that quickly, but the truth is that I cannot. I will let my honourable friend know as soon as I can.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, His Honour called Orders of the Day and in the heat

[Senator Haidasz.]

of the moment I forgot I had some delayed answers to questions.

Senator MacEachen: I thought it was a cool afternoon in the chamber.

Senator Argue: It's warming up!

An Hon. Senator: You have your raincoat on.

Senator Roblin: I think one's attitude depends on whether one is on the receiving end or the giving end of these things. Since I am on the receiving end most of the time, I am afraid my honourable friend will have to allow me to describe my situation as best I can.

TRANSPORT

PORT OF CHURCHILL, MANITOBA—GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO U.S.S.R. AND AVAILABILITY OF HOPPER CARS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): The first answer is in response to a question raised on June 19 by the Honourable Senator Guay respecting transportation, Port of Churchill, Manitoba, with particular reference to grain hopper cars.

I have another response—

Hon. Hazen Argue: Do you have the answer?

Senator Roblin: It will appear in *Debates of the Senate*, so you can read it.

Senator Argue: I would be interested in hearing it, if it is not too long.

Senator Roblin: I think you can look at it over the weekend. Unless you insist, I would rather not get into that.

Senator Argue: It has been the practice to read the answers.

Senator Roblin: I have another question by Senator Guay—

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I rise on a point of order. I thought that we had agreed that when the Leader of the Government notified the Senate that he had an answer to a question, he would leave it to any senator to ask that it be read. Otherwise, it would be taken as read. I remember we had an exchange on that subject. The practice previously was to read the answer unless it was agreed to take it as read. If a senator asks for it to be read, I think the leader should comply.

Senator Roblin: My recollection is that if the senator asking the question asked for it to be read, it would be read. I will ask the Clerk of the Senate to take the copy across to Senator Argue so that he can read it.

Senator Frith: But some other honourable senators might be interested in the answer. Honourable senators will remember that when Senator Roblin was on this side—and I am not criticizing him for it—quite frequently, after he had heard an answer to a question that he had asked, he would rise and make some supplementary observations on the answer given. It may very well be that when we hear the subject matter of the answer, we might want to ask something further about it—as