

Why should the Canadian government be concerned that they have denounced the elections as fraudulent? Surely, it should be saying, "We agree with them." I do not believe that we should be expressing concern that organizations in the Philippines have denounced the election as fraudulent when the Leader of the Government himself, admittedly, as he stated, expressing his own feelings, questioned the legitimacy of the election. In view of the fact that the Secretary of State of the United States, who, the Leader of the Government in the Senate acknowledged several days ago, represents the country with special relations with the Philippines, went much further, I cannot understand this.

Has the Leader of the Government read the release, or has the Secretary of State for External Affairs read the release? Because it really worsens our situation rather than helps it.

**Senator Roblin:** I am sorry if my honourable friend does not like the wording of the release that has been issued. I have to tell him that I, myself, think that different words could have been used effectively.

But the real crux of the matter is: What does the government intend to do about it besides issue press releases? It intends to do something. I hope that an announcement may be made tomorrow as to what that action will be, although I may be mistaken and it may not be made tomorrow. To the best of my knowledge at the present time, my honourable friend can expect a further statement at that time.

**Senator MacEachen:** I take it, then, that the Leader of the Government finds this statement unacceptable. I find it unacceptable because it is very unsatisfactory.

May I ask whether the government has sent congratulations to the President of the Philippines, in view of this wishy-washy statement which expresses nervously a concern that anybody in the Philippines should question the election? Has the government congratulated Marcos?

**Senator Roblin:** I congratulate my honourable friend because he is certainly making the most of this little press release.

I am not exactly in a position to tell him that I share his views on this matter. I can tell him that no congratulations have been sent to the President of the Philippines.

**Senator MacEachen:** Has it been decided by the government not to have a Canadian representative at the inauguration of President Marcos, if that inauguration does take place?

**Senator Roblin:** I think that after further information has been made available to the country tomorrow, or by the beginning of next week, my honourable friend will find that his questions have been answered.

**Senator MacEachen:** Why is it that we have to wait? We have asked this question several times in the Senate. The minister has issued a press release which is clearly unsatisfactory and which the Leader of the Government finds unsatisfactory. Now we are told to wait until next week. Can the leader explain to us why we must wait if we cannot be told what is going to happen?

**Senator Roblin:** When my honourable friend has seen the measures the government is taking, he will understand that a delay of a day or two is not out of the question.

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Honourable senators, will the Leader of the Government in the Senate agree to assist the Secretary of State for External Affairs in drafting the second statement of the government's intention so that the wording will be more felicitous than that of the first statement?

**Senator Roblin:** I do not think that I will respond to that in the affirmative because I am not entirely sure that I could do a better job myself. However, I will call upon my honourable friend if I get into trouble, and perhaps he can assist me.

**Senator Stewart:** I will be prepared to help.

**Senator Flynn:** God forbid!

## AGRICULTURE

### SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—1983 STABILIZATION PAYMENT— GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, Senator MacEachen complains about waiting for an answer on the Philippines question. He does not know what waiting is! I have been waiting for a year for an answer on sugar-beets.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Fairbairn:** I should like to ask once again the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether there have been any skeleton cabinet meetings, or cabinet meetings of any description, in the past days or this morning which might place him in the position of being able to give us a date on which we can expect an announcement on the government's stand on a national sugar sweetener policy and the stabilization payments for the 1983 crop year for the sugar-beet industry.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I do not think any member of the Senate is more conscious than I of the, perhaps, legitimate impatience of my honourable friend.

I can tell my honourable friend nothing more than I have already said to her this week on two occasions.

**Senator Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, I thank the government leader. We have clearly placed a good deal of faith in his representations. He clearly has more opportunity to make them and to put some pressure on to expedite this matter further next week. I would ask him if, in his efforts to do so, I could assist him by giving him a copy of all of the questions that have been asked by me and my colleagues in the past many months. I have thrown a couple of speeches in, as well as some correspondence that I have had with the government on this issue. I should tell honourable senators that although it seems like there were some 923 questions, there are actually some 23 or 24 which I have asked, plus some others having been put by my colleagues. This material might be of some use to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.