

I should add that if something should occur between now and June 26 that would warrant our attention, I would recommend to the Speaker that he recall the Senate. However, I have no indication that such an event will occur. That is speculation on my part. I simply want to alert honourable senators that if necessary that will be done.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, in addition to the somewhat speculative reasons for our returning, we have debate pending on a substantial amount of legislation.

[Translation]

#### ST. JEAN BAPTISTE DAY

**Hon. Jacques Flynn:** Honourable senators, if this motion is adopted, as it seems likely to be, the Senate will not sit until after St. Jean-Baptiste Day next Sunday. It is a very important day for the people of Newfoundland—Discovery Day. It is a very significant day for Quebecers who have made it their national holiday. It is also a very significant day for francophones outside Quebec who consider St. Jean-Baptiste Day to be their holiday as well.

I was going to mention the people of St. Boniface in Manitoba, in particular, since Senator Guay is not here today. I hope that next Sunday, given what should happen by then, it will be possible for Newfoundlanders, Quebecers and francophones outside Quebec to join with all other Canadians to renew their faith in the future of this country.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### MEECH LAKE ACCORD

STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS  
FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MANITOBA INDIAN CHIEFS—  
REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

**Hon. H.A. Olson:** Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate in his capacity as Minister of Federal-Provincial Relations. I listened with a great deal of interest to his comments after he had made some proposals—I do not know what the proposals were—to the Indian chiefs of Manitoba, following which Chief Fontaine said that there was nothing new contained in the proposals. I am not passing judgment on the proposals, because I did not see them and I do not know what was in place before. But I have to tell the Leader of the Government that I was absolutely amazed by what he said after that; that is, he attempted to lay the blame for this impasse on the legislature of Manitoba. In fact, on television Senator Murray said that it was incredible that the legislature, or at least one member of the legislature in exercising his democratic rights under the rules of the legislature in Manitoba, could hold up the Meech Lake Accord.

[Senator Doody.]

**Senator Flynn:** Those were not the proper words!

**Senator Olson:** He was exercising his democratic rights.

**Senator Flynn:** There is nothing democratic about that!

**Senator Olson:** Let me finish the question, because I am sure the honourable minister would like to clear this up. I should like to ask the minister, at least for my own clarification, what in the name of heaven did he expect Premier Filmon to do? Did he expect the premier to set aside all the rules that the Manitoba legislature had put in place a few months ago to deal with this kind of amendment? At the same time, was the minister not aware of this? Premier Filmon said on several occasions that he told the minister, and indeed the Prime Minister, that they had to go through this procedure with respect to an act of the Manitoba legislature—

**Senator Flynn:** Question!

**Senator Olson:**—so that the people of Manitoba could have some input into—

**Senator Flynn:** No speech! Question!

**Some Hon. Senators:** Order!

**Senator Olson:**—a matter as important as an amendment to the Constitution of Canada.

**Senator Flynn:** Question! Question!

**Senator Olson:** Senator Flynn—

**Senator Flynn:** No speech!

**Senator Olson:**—can make a speech or a preamble whenever he feels like it.

● (1430)

**Senator Frith:** He is putting his question. He said: "My question is".

**Senator Olson:** The only problem is that he wants to make a preamble to everybody's speech.

I should like to ask the minister if he could tell us what he meant. Surely he is not using the weight of the federal government to try to bully the members of the Manitoba legislature, and indeed the legislature itself—

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Olson:**—to compensate now for the fumbling and bumbling this government has indulged in to date!

**Senator Flynn:** If you want a debate we can have one.

**Senator Olson:** We will, later today.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, the short answer to my honourable friend's question is that of course we knew what the rules of the Manitoba legislature provide for in respect of resolutions to amend the Constitution. Premier Filmon also knows.

On June 9 Premier Filmon, together with two other first ministers, the Premiers of New Brunswick and Newfoundland, committed himself, and I quote, "to use every possible effort to