

ence and examining the objectives of the bill, that it ought to be passed here today.

● (1230)

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I assume the records were examined and nothing was found in them that would create a danger to Canada if they were made public.

**Senator Frith:** I am looking closely through my briefing notes and there is nothing to support that conclusion.

**Senator Flynn:** It beats the silence of the government in the other place.

**Senator Frith:** If Senator Flynn is inviting me to make the inference that I think he is making, I would rather refuse the invitation. I will not quarrel with the fact that he is making it and there might be some basis for it.

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Senator Flynn has the right to do that, but he has to take the responsibility for it himself.

**Senator Flynn:** What I am saying is that if these documents were classified and now we are going to declassify them, my understanding is that the government must have checked that there was no danger in doing that. I have to assume that from the silence of the members of the government in the other place.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, I misunderstood. Senator Flynn is saying, in effect, that we have not had the opportunity to study the bill and it is not unreasonable to assume that if there were any danger to Canada resulting from the release of this information someone would have spoken up on behalf of the government. I think that is a reasonable inference.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

#### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government)** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b) moved that the bill be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

#### AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

##### MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EXAMINATION OF ONGOING EFFECTS OF RESTRUCTURING ON FISHING INDUSTRY—ORDER WITHDRAWN

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Marshall, seconded by the Honourable Senator Macdonald:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry be authorized to examine the

ongoing effects of the restructuring of the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada.—(*Honourable Senator Frith.*)

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the background to this motion, as honourable senators may remember, is that there was a proposal which I had discussed with the opposition, with the committee, and, in particular with Senator Marshall, about the possibility of having a special committee study that subject. Senator Marshall and some of his colleagues on the other side, and some of our colleagues, felt that we had to stop this proliferation of special committees. Senator Marshall pointed out that it was within the mandate of the standing committee and, therefore, ought to be referred to them.

I apologize to Senator Marshall and to the Senate that I was unable to get my act together on the question of which committee should handle it and whether the government wanted to proceed with the study either on the basis of a special committee or a standing committee. As a result, it has stood on the Order Paper. Subsequently, I had a meeting with Senator Marshall and I agreed that I would apologize for not dealing with that order earlier. We now agree under those circumstances that there would be little point in dealing with it at this stage of our sitting, and therefore, we will perhaps reinstate it at a future date. Can we consider it debated?

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** I hope that we will reactivate it in the new session under one government or the other.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** If it is a motion you should suggest it be withdrawn. If we wished to consider it as having been debated it would mean the Speaker would have to put the question.

**Senator Frith:** Senator Flynn is quite right. It would have to be withdrawn with consent, if that is satisfactory.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Order withdrawn.

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, we understand that the House of Commons will be asking us to pass some non-controversial—we hope—bills this afternoon before Royal Assent. Their Question Period was held from 11 a.m. until noon which means that they have been working for less than an hour. The discussions I had with those on the other side indicated that they would try not to work past 2 o'clock, and that they would be content with whatever bills they were able to deal with by that time. For that reason I think we should adjourn during pleasure to reassemble at the call of the bell at approximately 2 p.m. I will check on the situation in the other place before the ringing of the bells.