

They would welcome any other honourable senators of whatever party affiliation, or of no party affiliation, who would wish at any time to join in subscribing to this declaration.

I have therefore been authorized by Honourable Senators Cameron, Inman, Molson, Beaubien, Cook, Lang, Deschatelets, Thompson, Bell, Manning, Lafond, Lawson, and Bonnell, who subscribe to this declaration of independence, to request you, Mr. Speaker, to permit them to be seated together in the Senate Chamber.

[Translation]

Honourable senators, I want to sum up the essential points of the statement I have just read in English, on behalf of my colleagues.

We believe that over the years we have lost sight of the original role that the Fathers of Confederation expected the Upper House to play, and we believe that the time has come, for us, to serve this institution in a context where our freedom of action will be full and not subject to the discipline of a political party.

Honourable senators, may I say here, as I ask this question: Why do you think that a bill such as Bill C-60, which had to do with the reform of the Senate and gave half of the representation of the Senate to the provinces, was submitted to us? Why do you think that, in the beige paper of the Quebec Liberal leader, the Honourable Mr. Ryan, they raised the possibility of giving the entire representation of the Senate to the provinces under the name of Federal Council? And, in the same breath, I add: What was the idea of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Mr. Trudeau—and this has nothing to do with the quality of our work—when he said very recently in Fredericton that over the years the Senate had lost its vocation? Those are questions I leave with you for you to reflect upon.

These honourable senators who accept this philosophy, as I said a moment ago, are not changing party affiliation, nor are they forming or joining a new party; they are simply proclaiming that they desire to be associated only in their individual freedom and independence with respect to the discharge of their responsibilities as members of this House.

Needless to say, if other honourable senators would wish to join in subscribing to this declaration, we would welcome them at any time.

● (1415)

QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE SENATE

PROPOSED MEETING TO CONSIDER SENATOR DESCHATELETS' REQUEST

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, in view of the statement just made by Senator Deschatelets, I could perhaps ask the Leader of the Govern-

ment if he would agree to discuss with His Honour the Speaker of the Senate how we could best meet the wishes of Senator Deschatelets and his group.

[English]

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the government side is always willing to discuss matters at any time.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

STRIKE BY FRANCOPHONE JOURNALISTS

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): I see that the Leader of the Government is much less talkative than usual, because, normally, such a question would have gotten us a speech of half an hour, which would have added nothing to the answer that we got, but which would still have taken up half an hour of the time of the Senate.

My other question concerns another matter, and I can see that the Leader of the Government will be relieved that I do not continue on the same subject.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne: Ah, ah!

Senator Flynn: Has Senator Lamontagne anything to say? He is reflecting on whether he should join this group, but as I said earlier, he will reflect for a very long time.

Senator Lamontagne: Not as long as you.

Senator Flynn: But your reflections never lead anywhere.

My question follows one which I asked the Leader of the Government approximately two weeks ago about the strike of the CBC francophone journalists. I suggested to him that he might agree to a motion which would ask the Senate Committee on Transport and Communications to look at the problem and perhaps to question the parties involved about it, to see what the trouble is and what could be done to settle a conflict which has lasted far too long.

[English]

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, the proposal by the Leader of the Opposition will be given renewed consideration by the government.

Senator Flynn: Renewed? When did you stop?

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF SENATORS IN EAST BLOCK

[Translation]

Hon. Martial Asselin: Honourable senators, I would like to direct a question to the government leader. I was wondering whether I should ask it during Question Period or by way of a question of privilege. In any event, I would like to submit my