

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 19, 1994

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE SENATE

CONDITION OF CHAMBER—FELICITATIONS TO STAFF

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I would be remiss if I did not thank all the staff of the Senate for the excellent work they did in accommodating everyone yesterday, and for the excellent job they have done in restoring this chamber to its proper state, ready for its normal usage, which is the condition in which we now find it.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTERNAL ECONOMY, BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Hon. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present the following report concerning the Senate Estimates for the fiscal year 1994-95.

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The Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration has the honour to present the following report:

Your committee has examined and approved the Senate Estimates for the fiscal year 1994-95 and recommends their adoption.

The total Senate Estimates for 1994-95 will be \$42,014,000. This is the third year during which the Senate budget shows a reduction. In the previous two years, the budget was reduced by 2.5% and 1.9% respectively. In 1994-95, the proposed draft budget is reduced by another 1.4% from the previous year although the workload is assessed to be higher than in 1993-94 as it will be the first year after an election.

A summary of the Expenditure Budget 1994-95 accompanies this report.

Respectfully submitted,

THÉRÈSE LAVOIE-ROUX
Chairperson

Your Honour, I do not want to talk about the report, but would my colleagues allow me to say a few words of thanks to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Budgets and Personnel, since he will not be here tomorrow? Would that be possible?

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Lavoie-Roux: I would simply like to express my sincere thanks to all committee members. I will come back to this when we discuss the report at a future sitting.

[English]

However, I should speak English for Senator Doyle. He accepted the responsibility of being the chairman of the Subcommittee on Budgets and Personnel for the preparation of the 1994-95 budget.

Senators and staff who have been attending these sessions in the preceding months, and senators who have previously assumed that responsibility, know that the budget process requires a great deal of patience, devotion and hard work. I should like to express my thanks to Senator Doyle for the excellent work that he has done, the result of which is presented to you today.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I wish to associate myself with the comments of Senator Lavoie-Roux with regard to the work of Senator Doyle and the subcommittee. If any of you have not served on that subcommittee, I urge you at some time to take advantage of that opportunity.

While the Senate was in recess through the fall period, the subcommittee met on many long days, and it was a hard, arduous task. The previous chairman of that subcommittee, Senator Doody, also knows what I am talking about. Therefore, I wish to thank Senator Doyle and all of the members who worked on that subcommittee. It was indeed tough work, and they have done a very good job.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Lavoie-Roux, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

THE HONOURABLE JOYCE FAIRBAIRN, P.C.

FELICITATIONS ON APPOINTMENT AS FIRST WOMAN LEADER

Leave having been given to revert to Senators' Statements:

Hon. Pat Carney: Honourable senators, I wish to acknowledge the presence in the chamber of the first woman Leader of the Government, or of the Opposition, in the Senate.