

good will of all honourable senators opposite to ensure its rapid passage when it reaches this chamber.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENT AUDITS OF INDIAN BAND TRUST FUNDS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on November 25, Senator Nurgitz asked a question concerning the auditing of Indian band funds by the Auditor General.

I am informed that the Auditor General has indeed taken action in this regard. Specific information will be available in the Auditor General's report which is due before the end of December.

● (2110)

To give details at this stage would violate the confidentiality of the report. As soon as the report has been tabled I shall be pleased to answer any further questions that the Honourable Senator Nurgitz, or other senators, may have concerning this and other matters covered in the report.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—WITNESSES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): I have here, honourable senators, a delayed answer to the question by Senator Roblin on November 25, 1980, concerning the number of groups that have submitted briefs and wish to appear before the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada.

In response to Senator Roblin's question, I table the following:

A list of witnesses who have appeared before the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada. (*English Text*).

A statistical compilation of witnesses heard or wishing to be heard by the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, and submissions received by the said Committee. (*English Text*).

(*For text of documents see appendix, p. 1345.*)

Honourable senators, this compilation is a very long list. First comes a list of witnesses who appeared before the committee through December 1. Next comes a compilation asked for by Senator Roblin, which is a complete list of witnesses by organization, and each person in the delegation, according to the date they appeared. This may be of interest to honourable senators.

The second document I can just briefly say something about. The entire document, of course, is being tabled. Perhaps it can be incorporated in the record of today's proceedings.

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

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

[Senator Perrault.]

Senator Perrault: The number of briefs and written submissions received was 529, plus 22 after the deadline of November 25. These include letters, telegrams, et cetera.

The number of groups wishing to appear was 274, plus five received after the deadline of November 25.

The number of individuals wishing to appear was 130, plus six after the deadline of November 25.

The number of groups making representations only was 74, plus one received after the deadline of November 25.

The number of individuals making representations only was 400, plus seven received after the deadline of November 25.

The numbers wishing to appear by category are listed in great and exhaustive detail in the document I have tabled this evening.

Honourable senators may have further questions after they review this list, but I think it will be of interest to all, and perhaps will provide the most cogent and succinct reason why members of this house and other place have proposed that the hearings be extended to February 6. The Canadian people have proven that they are not backward at coming forward.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN INITIATIVES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Macquarrie, on November 26, asked a question concerning Canada's role in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

During his press conference in Cairo on November 22, the Prime Minister said that Canada can exercise some modest influence in bringing both sides closer together by speaking its mind as it has in the United Nations and in our direct relations with Arab nations and with Israel. I would like to quote exactly what the Prime Minister said:

It's not out of modesty but more out of realism that we realize that we cannot have a great influence. But I'm sure that Israel is sensitive, as they have told us before, to the position the Canadian government takes in speaking its mind either in private with Israel or in public at the United Nations or in the Canadian Parliament. And this, I think, will be the extent of our role. I've said it many times before, that in this day and age, the countries with the mightiest military forces are sometimes incapable because of the strength of those forces to influence the course of events and it can be the role of lesser nations to use their influence through ideas and persuasion.

ITALY

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER—CANADIAN AID

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, because I know there is a lively interest in the chamber on the subject of the plight of the survivors of the dreadful earthquake in Italy, I would like to refer to a body of information which I have here. It is rather lengthy, but