

The destruction of my ministerial papers covering a crucial period in Canadian history was an act of bureaucratic vandalism, which has caused me great personal anguish and anxiety. I pressed for the ongoing investigation and implored the department to produce whatever material it had on file. No relevant material has ever been located.

● (1420)

The political discussion and the policy process reflected in the destroyed material have a value to Canadians, including myself, far beyond any cash payment made to me. The loss is devastating and can never be justified. Attempts by bureaucrats, the media and the opposition to pretend these papers still exist are irresponsible in the extreme.

Honourable senators, I should like to move a motion calling upon the Senate to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Privileges, Standing Rules and Orders.

The Hon. the Speaker: I think there will have to be notice.

Senator Carney: I gave notice.

GENERAL ELECTION

NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT IN CURRENT TERM

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, it is now March 30, 1993. That means that this government has spent 132 days trying to avoid what happened to the Conservatives in Prince Edward Island — 132 days of political cowardice and contempt for the democratic process, to use Senator Murray's deathless words — or at least I am doing my best to make sure they are deathless.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

PROVINCIAL ELECTION—LIBERAL VICTORY

Hon. Gerald R. Ottenheimer: Honourable senators, I did not rise quickly enough after Honourable Senator Bonnell. I was hoping then, under the rubric of statements, to make a statement, if it is not out of order to make a statement which would end in a question mark. I presume that would be an interrogatory statement, and it is probably quite in order.

I was prompted, when Senator Bonnell was outlining the difficulties of the Progressive Conservative Party in the beautiful province of Prince Edward Island, to ask whether he would share the opinion that a change of "Kim-estry" might be very beneficial.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1, 1993-94

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. H.A. Olson, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, presented the following report:

Tuesday, March 30, 1993

The Standing Senate Committee on National Finance has the honour to present its

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

Your Committee, to which was referred Bill C-120, "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1994", has, in obedience to the Order of Reference of Tuesday, March 2, 1993, examined the said Bill and now reports the same without amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

H.A. (Bud) OLSON
Chairman

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): With leave, now.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I normally would not give leave, but under the Flynn formula, do I understand correctly that there will be Royal Assent this afternoon?

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Yes, we have it scheduled for around six o'clock.

Senator Molgat: Using the Flynn formula, and on the basis that there will be Royal Assent this afternoon, I will agree to give leave.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.