

**Senator Bolduc:** The federal government is such a big enterprise that you have to have about 18 months. Don't forget that the forecasting for that budget is 15 months old now. It is a long process.

**Senator Molgat:** On that basis we are prepared to give the bill second reading, and we will ask all our questions in committee.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

#### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

On motion of Senator Lynch-Staunton, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance.

### ROYAL ASSENT

#### NOTICE

**The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*** informed the Senate that the following communication had been received:

#### RIDEAU HALL

The Secretary to the Governor General

March 25, 1993

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Peter deC. Cory, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 25th day of March, 1993, at 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

Yours sincerely,

Judith A. LaRocque  
*Secretary to the Governor General*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate  
Ottawa

### SASKATCHEWAN TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. Eric Berntson,** moved the second reading of Bill C-104, respecting an agreement regarding treaty land entitle-

ment in Saskatchewan entered into on September 22, 1992, among Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Saskatchewan and the Keeseekoose, Muskowekwan, Ochapowace, Okanese, Piapot, Star Blanket, Yellowquill, Beady's & Okemasis, Flying Dust, Little Pine, Moosomin, Mosquito Grizzly Bear's Head, Muskeg Lake, One Arrow, Pelican Lake, Red Pheasant, Saulteaux, Sweetgrass, Thunderchild, Witchekan Lake, Canoe Lake and English River bands, and respecting an agreement regarding treaty land entitlement in Saskatchewan entered into on September 23, 1992, among Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Saskatchewan and the Nekaneet band.

He said: Honourable senators, I welcome the opportunity to address the issue of treaty land entitlement legislation, Bill C-104. I want to begin by commending my colleagues for their commitment to ensuring that Canada fulfils its historic obligations to aboriginal people. Bill C-104 is a crucial step in achieving this objective in the area of treaty land entitlements. For this reason I am sure my colleagues will want to support this legislation.

Bill C-104 will provide for the implementation of two historic agreements that were finalized last year. The first, the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, was signed on December 22 and covers 26 of the 27 entitlement bands in Saskatchewan. The second agreement, the Nekaneet Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement, was signed the following day. It will address the entitlement issue for the Nekaneet band, which faces special circumstances that require immediate action through a separate arrangement.

Under these two agreements, the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan will provide close to \$500 million over the next 12 years to enable the 26 affected bands to purchase land. That land will then be transferred to the federal Crown and will eventually be granted reserve status.

According to federal-provincial cost sharing agreements reached more than a year ago, 51 per cent of the funds under these treaty land entitlement agreements will be provided by Canada and 49 per cent by Saskatchewan. The federal government has agreed to accelerate its payments in the first two years of the framework agreement so that the bands can move quickly in purchasing land for the benefit of their communities.

Honourable senators should also be aware that the government has taken steps to protect the financial interests of rural municipalities and rural school divisions. Towards that end, the framework agreement includes an arrangement to pay some \$50 million in compensation to these institutions for lost tax revenues when land is removed from private ownership.