

Canada and to give effect to an Agreement between Canada and the United States of America on principles applicable to such a pipeline and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto, Chapter 20, Statutes of Canada 1977-78,

(2) to consider, in particular, all reports, orders, agreements, regulations, directions, recommendations and approvals referred to in the said Act, and

(3) to report to the Senate thereon at least once in each session of Parliament during the period of the planning and construction of the pipeline;

That the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses, to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee and to adjourn from place to place in Canada; and

That the papers and evidence received and taken on the subject in the preceding session be referred to the committee.

He said: I should also like to suggest that during the discussion of this motion the Leader of the Government may wish to take into consideration the fact that the terms of reference of this committee could be expanded to take in other matters with respect to gas and oil. Perhaps an energy committee could be established, and the Northern Pipeline referred to it. At this point I am just giving notice. This is not contained in terms of reference outlined. Those are exactly the same as they were in the last session.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

TERMINATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY ON EIGHTH SITTING DAY

Senator Roblin, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(i), moved:

That the proceedings on the order of the day for resuming the debate on the motion for an Address in reply to His Excellency the Governor General's Speech from the Throne addressed to both Houses of Parliament be concluded on the eighth sitting day on which the order is debated.

He said: Honourable senators, to the best of my understanding, this is a usual motion to be introduced at this time in order to set some term to the debate on the Speech from the Throne, and I trust it will be acceptable as such.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, while we on this side do not resist the motion—it is a usual initiative on the part of the government—may I suggest that there has been an unusual length of time since Parliament last met, and there is a great deal to talk about. However, we shall endeavour to accommodate ourselves to the limits suggested by this motion, but we intend to speak vigorously in the debate.

Senator Roblin: I thank my honourable friend for his warning. It is true there is a great deal to talk about, but I think if senators make the best use of the time available in the course

of the next eight days, they will be able to ventilate all the issues they wish.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

THE CABINET

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SENATE

Senator Perrault: I should like to direct a question to the distinguished Leader of the Government and Minister of Justice.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: May I congratulate the leader on his elevation to high office. During his long and lonely period as Leader of the Opposition in this chamber he developed an acute understanding of the problems facing an opposition force, and thus he will be compassionate, co-operative and helpful with respect to the information that we seek on behalf of the Canadian people.

Honourable senators, Parliament last met in March. Never in this history of Canada has there been such a long period of parliamentary inactivity. We have been informed that during that intervening period of time the new government, elected by the people on May 22, has given a great deal of thought to the subject of government reorganization.

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether he will undertake to provide for honourable senators, perhaps in the course of his remarks during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, a detailed summary of the specific cabinet responsibilities of the members of the government who serve in this chamber. I suggest that such information would be helpful to all honourable senators, who will wish to undertake their responsibilities in the Question Period as efficiently as possible.

• (1520)

Senator Flynn: It is quite clear to me that as Minister of Justice I answer for that department. I have no other responsibilities. It is quite clear that Senator Asselin is responsible for CIDA and has no other departmental responsibility.

As far as Senator de Cotret is concerned, he is Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and answers for that department. He also has, of course, the responsibility of directing economic development generally. However, when it comes to being specific about departments interested in that, he would have to refer to the minister directly involved.

That is the way I understand the responsibilities of those in this house who are charged with departments. If the honourable Leader of the Opposition wishes to have other details, I shall be glad to supply them.

Senator Perrault: That would be very much appreciated by members of the opposition.