

Report of Canadian Commercial Corporation, including its accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 13(1) of the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act, chapter 35, and sections 85(3) and 87(3) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952.

Report of Crown Assets Disposal Corporation, including its accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 14 of the Surplus Crown Assets Act, chapter 260, and sections 85(3) and 87(3) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952.

Report of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, including its accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to sections 85(3) and 87(3) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952.

Report of the number and amount of Loans to Immigrants made under section 69(1) of the Immigration Act for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 69(6) of the said Act, chapter 325, R.S.C., 1952.

Report of the Science Council of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 17 of the Science Council of Canada Act, chapter 19, Statutes of Canada, 1966-67.

Report of the National Librarian for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 13 of the National Library Act, chapter 330, R.S.C., 1952.

Report on the operation of Agreements with the Provinces under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1970, pursuant to section 9 of the said Act, chapter 28, Statutes of Canada, 1957.

CRIMINAL CODE (JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN)

BILL TO AMEND—REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. John J. Connolly, Acting Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, reported that the committee had considered Bill S-20, to amend the Criminal Code (Jury Service for Women), and had directed that the bill be reported without amendment.

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

Hon. Mrs. Fergusson: I move third reading now.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Next sitting.

The Hon. the Speaker: To proceed with third reading now would require leave.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: No, it does not require leave.

The Hon. the Speaker: I am reminded that we do not need unanimous consent, that there was an agreement

among honourable senators. I would like to hear the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Flynn) on this.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Is Your Honour suggesting that the suspension of rules would apply to the present bill?

The Hon. the Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Technically Your Honour may be right, but if the Senate considers this is the case, I would say it is an abuse of the rights of the Opposition. A reference to the debate which took place when the motion was made by Senator Langlois makes it quite clear that it concerned only government bills. The only reason we agreed to the motion was because at that time Senator Langlois indicated which bills would be coming to us, or which would be likely to come to us, before the adjournment. It was on that understanding that we agreed to the suspension of the rules at that time.

This is, of course, a public bill, but it is a privately initiated public bill, and it is obvious from the debate that took place that the agreement was only in respect of government bills. If the understanding is to be interpreted in the way Your Honour suggests, while it may be correct technically speaking, it would be an abuse of the spirit of that agreement.

Hon. Mrs. Fergusson: Honourable senators, I shall certainly not insist on third reading today. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition must know that this bill has been held up for a long time because of the illness of the chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. We were expecting him to return, and out of courtesy were waiting for him. When it was ascertained that he was not coming, it was decided to call the committee together. I had not the slightest expectation that there would be any objection to third reading. Although, as his Honour the Speaker has said, in view of the suspension of the rules, I do not need to ask for leave, I shall not insist on third reading today. This bill can be read the third time at the next sitting, whenever that is going to be.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I would like to thank Senator Fergusson for her approach. The interpretation the Leader of the Opposition has put on the arguments presented by Senator Langlois and others when Rules 44, 45 and 78 were suspended is the proper one. In view of what Senator Fergusson has said perhaps we should comply with the request of the Leader of the Opposition, and leave third reading until the next sitting.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. McDonald). I assure the Senate that I do not do this because I oppose the principle of the bill or its passage. I would like to say something on third reading, but I do not think this occasion is an appropriate one, and I do not have the necessary material at hand.

Hon. Mrs. Fergusson moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.