

**Senator Grafstein:** While the Leader of the Government in the Senate is seeking the information I ask, perhaps he could also find out on behalf of the Senate and the people of Canada what this tax measure will cost citizens across the country.

**Senator Roblin:** I think my honourable friend will find that information in the tax papers. The amount is not considered to be large.

## EXPO 86

### ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**Hon. Paul Lucier:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. As next door neighbours, we Yukoners feel very close to British Columbia and I hope the senators from that province will not object to an outsider making a pitch on behalf of Expo 86.

I have recently had the pleasure of visiting the Canada Pavillion and the Expo 86 site and it is absolutely magnificent. British Columbia has done a remarkable job of putting Expo 86 together and I am sure it will be a world-class event that will make all Canadians very proud. I am wondering whether the Leader of the Government in the Senate could do something to make senators and others more aware of what is going on in order to help make it a priority for senators and all members of Parliament, with their families, to visit Vancouver this summer and participate in this event.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I am sure that we are all glad to hear my honourable friend's intervention, because this is a national project; it is not a provincial one. It belongs to all Canadians and I am among those who hope to visit it. However, I think the Government of British Columbia has already distributed—to me, at any rate—a pretty substantial brochure giving the full story of the exhibition in Vancouver. I thought this brochure was an attractive and entertaining piece of work and I think senators ought to inform themselves about this event.

● (1530)

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault:** Honourable senators, if I may, I will add some information on that point. There is under consideration the possibility of establishing a special two or three day itinerary for those members of Parliament from the Senate or the House of Commons to visit Expo, perhaps some time in May. This is a multipartisan project involving those members who serve in Parliament from British Columbia. It is non-partisan, multipartisan—

**Senator Frith:** Megapartisan? Can I go?

**Senator Perrault:** As Senator Lucier has so eloquently and generously stated, this will be quite a world's fair. The fair has already sold in excess of seven million visits, which is a new record for world fairs anywhere—money in the bank. It will be an extremely successful enterprise and a tribute to all parts of Canada, since all of the provinces are participating.

**Senator Roblin:** Manitoba isn't.

**Senator Perrault:** Unfortunately—

[Senator Roblin.]

**Senator Roblin:** "Unfortunately" is right.

**Senator Perrault:** Unfortunately that is so, and I agree with the Leader of the Government on that point. If there is interest in the idea of a special three-day itinerary for parliamentarians, I can only say that members of the various parties are enthusiastic about putting that plan into effect.

## AGRICULTURE

### SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—1983 STABILIZATION PAYMENT—1986 CROP YEAR—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat:** Honourable senators, I should like to address a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I ask this question in the absence of our colleague, Senator Fairbairn, so he can guess what the subject matter is going to be. He also knows that it affects the province of Manitoba.

Could the Leader of the Government advise us whether any decision has been taken by the government with regard to the sugar-beet industry? Will there be an announcement from the government on the stabilization payment that is due from back in 1983? What is the policy for the coming year?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I think that my colleague, the Minister of State, has been in touch with leaders in that industry over the last day or two. I will inquire from him as to when he will be able to make a definitive statement on this matter.

**Senator Molgat:** Honourable senators, the specific reason for the question is that, on February 18, when Senator Fairbairn asked the question, she indicated that there was a group of sugar-beet growers which intended to come to Ottawa on or about March 3. The government leader at that time replied:

I can tell the honourable senator, though, that I have every expectation that any demonstration on or about March 3 would be unnecessary.

It is now March 4, and it is my understanding that some of these growers are either on the way to Ottawa or certainly intend to be here this very week.

Honourable senators, we keep on getting this postponement. My honourable friend knows very well the cost to these farmers to come to Ottawa in order to put this pressure on. Surely we do not have to put them to this exercise every year.

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, I am aware of the exchange that took place on February 18. I looked it up because I thought that this matter would likely be raised today. What I said was:

It is a gratuitous exercise to predict when cabinet is finally going to deal with a matter, as those who have served in cabinets would agree. I am a little reluctant to accept my honourable friend's invitation to give a date.

So I did not give a date. I did say, however, that my expectation was that any demonstration in Ottawa on March 3—and I now add at any time—would not be necessary because I am still optimistic in respect of this matter. I know that my