

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 16, 1982

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Honourable Gildas L. Molgat, Speaker *pro tem*, in the Chair.

Prayers.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FALKLAND ISLANDS—OCCUPATION BY ARGENTINA—MOTION OF CONGRATULATION TO GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN ON RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. David A. Croll**, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(h), moved:

That this House congratulates Prime Minister Thatcher, the Government and the people of the United Kingdom on their resolution of the conflict in the Falkland Islands that maintains the principle that armed aggression must be resisted, that respect for the United Nations Charter and the rule of law in international affairs be observed and force not used to settle territorial disputes between states, regrets the loss of life and injuries on both sides and urges a peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues between the U.K. and Argentina.

He said: Honourable senators, this resolution was passed unanimously yesterday by the House of Commons.

[Translation]

**Hon. Martial Asselin**: Honourable senators, before giving my consent to this motion, I would like to examine it more closely, and I may wish to make a few comments before the Senate decides on the motion in question. I am not prepared to give my consent to having the motion adopted today. I therefore move that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the Senate.

On motion of Senator Asselin, debate adjourned.

[English]

### BORROWING AUTHORITY BILL, 1982-83

FIRST READING

**The Hon. the Speaker *pro tem*** informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-111, to provide supplementary borrowing authority.

Bill read first time.

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault**, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading later this day.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### NATIONAL REVENUE

ENERGY LEGISLATION—LEGALITY OF TAX COLLECTION

**Hon. Orville H. Phillips**: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government, which arises from a news item I read this morning in which a Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature was reported to have stated that certain taxes levied in the last Ontario budget contravene the Charter of Rights in that they provide a penalty for non-payment. The Charter of Rights prohibits such penalty until an act has been passed.

I do not believe the energy bills have yet been passed by Parliament. Bills C-103, C-104, C-106, C-107, C-108 and C-112 all contain penalty clauses which, according to information I have received, is the important point.

Would the Leader of the Government consult with the law officers to see if the taxes that have already been levied and collected under those bills were collected legally, or would he consider referring the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada, as he did with the claim of Newfoundland for offshore rights?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government)**: Honourable senators, I have not read the news item quoted by the honourable senator. If he has a transcript of the remarks alleged to have been made by a Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature, I shall be pleased to have a copy. Questions raised in the report will be discussed with officials of the Department of Justice, should there be any reason to pursue the matter.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

BASIC RATE OF PENSION—AGING VETERANS PROGRAM

**Hon. Jack Marshall**: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government which he will no doubt take as notice. My question concerns the speech made by the Minister of Veterans Affairs at the Dominion Command convention of the Royal Canadian Legion. The minister again repeated the desire of the government to enshrine the basic rate of pension, so that year after year veterans will not have to catch up in equating their pensions with the average of the five lowest categories in the Public Service.

Would the Leader of the Government ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs when this legislation will be brought forward. It would involve only a simple piece of legislation, which, no doubt, could be passed by both houses within hours, and one of