

indeed: "Well, if you don't like the answers, you can lump it"; or, "It's your problem." Well—

Senator Walker: Whoever said that?

Senator Olson: That is what Senator Balfour said yesterday, or the day before.

Senator Frith: You can look it up.

Senator Olson: That is what he said, and Senator Flynn seemed to think that that was an appropriate answer. I think that is too bad.

Senator Flynn: It all depends on who it is directed to.

Senator Olson: There is another matter that we would like to hear about when we are talking about things like this, and that is, what is this government going to do to maintain the competitive position of farmers, and particularly those on the prairies, when we know that the United States has announced a \$2 billion support program to assist U.S. farmers in exporting their grain surpluses out of that country? Absolute silence from this government as to what it is going to do to meet that challenge.

There is nothing we can do about it now, and I do not intend to hold matters up any longer; but I can tell you this: The senior citizens of this country have finally gotten the message about how this government can betray them, break its promises, and do exactly the opposite to what it promised. The farmers are starting to realize that, too. By the end of the summer, it is going to be serious enough that I hope that the members opposite will carry the message to their colleagues in caucus so that something can be done about this extremely serious problem.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, pursuant to rule 12 of our rules, I must now leave the Chair, unless there is unanimous agreement that we stop the clock.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I think we have about 10 or 15 minutes of business left on the order paper. If honourable senators are agreeable, perhaps we can look in the other direction for a little while.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I understand that, just for today, the clock is running quite fast.

Senator Balfour: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I wish to inform honourable senators that if the Honourable Senator Balfour speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Senator Balfour: Honourable senators, in closing the debate on the motion for second reading, I wonder if I might clarify something with respect to a question posed by Senator Sinclair.

Senator Sinclair inquired about a floor interest rate. I want to make sure that he understands that the moneys are advanced by lending institutions and not by the government.

Senator Sinclair: I understand.

Senator Frith: It is a fixed rate, then?

Senator Balfour: No, it is a floating rate. It floats to 1 per cent over prime.

Senator Sinclair: I am just looking for that surge of confidence I used to hear about so that rates would go below prime.

Senator Balfour: Honourable senators, I do not intend to respond in detail to the political rhetoric of my colleague, Senator Olson—

Senator Frith: Again, there is no answer!

Senator Balfour: I was interested to hear that he intends to spend some time visiting farmers in western Canada. I cannot speak for Alberta, but he had better not identify himself as a Liberal when visiting farms in Saskatchewan—

Senator Olson: You haven't been there for a while.

Senator Balfour: Oh, yes I have; I was there last weekend. Senator Olson was a member of the government that, for 16 years, allowed farmers to labour under interest rates as high as 21 per cent. That is what ran them all into the financial difficulty that they are now in with fixed mortgage rates.

Senator Frith: I must say, you fellows don't take criticism very well.

Senator Roblin: We like to stick to the facts.

Senator Balfour: With those few remarks, honourable senators, I close the debate.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

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

On motion of Senator Balfour, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—MOTION FOR MESSAGE TO HOUSE OF COMMONS—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of a message from the House of Commons requesting that a special joint committee be appointed to consider Canada's international relations.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, item No. 10 has been on the order paper for some time. It was deferred originally because of some budgetary sensitivities. I think those have now been resolved. Certain good offices have been offered to try to pry the money from the government to finance these joint committees, committees in respect of which we have little or no control.

With that in mind, I would ask that the Senate consider favourably the following motion:

That the Senate do unite with the House of Commons in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee to consider Canada's International Relations;