

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 6, 1990

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

WORLD WAR II

INTERNMENT OF ITALIAN CANADIANS—APOLOGY BY PRIME MINISTER—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Consiglio Di Nino: Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege. This past Sunday, in an address to a large group of people, mostly of Italian-Canadian background in the Toronto area, our Prime Minister apologized for the wrong and illegal treatment of Italian Canadians during World War II.

Those who were interned have waited 45 years for an apology. I am delighted that our Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, apologized not only to Canadians of Italian background but also to all other Canadians who were wrongly treated at that time.

For the record, and on behalf of all Canadians, in particular Canadians from the Italian communities across the country, I would like to say to our Prime Minister, *mille grazie*.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, I too rise on a question of privilege. On Sunday, November 4, Prime Minister Mulroney, in the course of a speech to the National Congress of Italian Canadians in Toronto, formally apologized to the Italian community for the 700 Canadians of Italian origin who had been interned in military camps in Petawawa, Ontario, from 1940 to 1943. During the same period, an additional 17,000 were fingerprinted and had to report to a police station on a weekly basis. My father, a humble tailor, was one of them.

Canadians who were victimized by the War Measures Act in 1940, and the Italian community in general, have applauded the Prime Minister for his symbolic and psychologically important statement.

The president of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Anna Maria Castrilli, was responsible for spearheading this important issue, and we are very much indebted to her.

I wish to convey to the Prime Minister my praise for his gesture, my congratulations, and my thanks. I am sure that my father, who passed away 27 years ago, would have been pleased with the intervention I have just made.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I too rise on a question of privilege, but on a totally different subject.

I would not like this day to pass without some reference on the Senate record to the horrors that took place one year ago at the Institut polytechnique de Montréal. There is little one can say about the horror of that situation, except to remind honourable senators that there is an inquiry on the order paper, inspired by this subject, dealing with the question of violence against women in Canadian society, which I launched, and to which I know Senator Spivak will speak when the opportunity arises. I would like to take this occasion to encourage other honourable senators to speak to that inquiry, lest we forget.

[Translation]

ACCOUNTS STATEMENT TABLED

On the tabling of documents:

The Hon. the Speaker: I have the honour to inform the Senate that the Clerk of the Senate has laid on the Table a detailed statement of his receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year 1989-90.

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-86, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act (child tax credit).

Bill read first time.

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

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): With leave, at the next sitting.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Leave is granted. I should say, for our side, that we are prepared to grant leave to deal with this bill either now or later this day.

I have spoken to Senator Doody, who has explained the problem. If it is possible, we would be prepared to support second reading of this bill later this day and refer the bill to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs Science and