

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, May 31, 1977

The Senate met at 2 p.m., Hon. Maurice Bourget, P.C., Speaker *pro tem*, in the Chair.  
Prayers.

### DOCUMENTS TABLED

**Senator Perrault** tabled:

Copies of Orders of the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act, pursuant to section 17(3) of the said Act, Chapter 75, Statutes of Canada 1974-75-76, respecting certain compensation plans, as follows:

1. National Grocers Co. Ltd. and the group of its employees engaged in Cash and Carry operations in Timmins, Ontario and from the date of certification, namely, 9 February 1976, represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Local 429. Order dated May 27, 1977.

2. Ozite Corporation of Canada Ltd. and the group of its employees represented by Le Syndicat des Salariés de Ozite, St-Jean, Québec. Order dated May 27, 1977.

### CLERESTORY OF THE SENATE CHAMBER

#### NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**Senator Connolly (Ottawa West):** Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called I would remind the members of the Special Committee on the Clerestory of the Senate Chamber that the committee will meet when the Senate rises today.

### RAILWAY ACT

#### BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

**Senator Bosa** moved third reading of Bill C-207, to amend the Railway Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

### SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATION BILL

#### SECOND READING—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Austin, seconded by the Honourable Senator Côtteau, for the second reading of the Bill C-309, intituled: "An Act respecting the domestic and industrial use of solar energy", and

On the motion in amendment thereto of the Honourable Senator Godfrey, seconded by the Honourable Senator Cook, that the Bill be not now read the second time but that the subject-matter thereof be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce for consideration and report.—(*Honourable Senator Deschatelets, P.C.*)

**Senator Deschatelets:** Honourable senators, I understand that we are awaiting a ruling by the Chair, so until this is made I think this matter should stand.

Order stands.

### CUSTOMS TARIFF

#### BILL TO AMEND (NO. 2)—SECOND READING—DEBATE

The Senate resumed from Thursday, May 26, the debate on the motion of Senator Frith for second reading of Bill C-55, to amend the Customs Tariff (No. 2).

**Hon. Allister Grosart:** Honourable senators, this is the second bill we have had in this session to amend the Customs Tariff, and for that reason it is designated as Customs Tariff (No. 2). We have these bills from time to time, and what we find on examining them is that they increase and decrease tariffs, raising the eternal question of what Canada's policy should be on protection versus free trade.

● (1410)

It is an argument that has been going on for a long time. Some of us will remember one very distinguished senator, once here, Senator Roebuck, who took the position that the only answer to Canada's problem was complete free trade. We give lip service as a country; the government gives lip service to the principle of multinational free trade. We say: "This is our target, but we do not really believe it," and for good reasons, because every time there is a question of increasing or decreasing tariffs, it raises questions and problems that affect the whole community. Every increase or decrease in tariffs will in some measure affect consumer prices and jobs. There is always the problem when tariffs are increased to protect an industry: "Which industry should we select to protect?" Almost invariably there is a penalty against other industries.

Consumer interest, of course, is always present and we find immediately when we look at this bill that one of its first provisions deals with measures taken a few years ago, in 1973, to give some relief to the problem of inflation in Canada and, particularly, consumer prices.

The question that one should ask and to which we should receive an answer is, of course: have these measures done what they are intended to do? One of the things that has always