

with what he said about the outgoing government or about many of the other things that he expressed—

**Senator Donahoe:** Or the incoming government either.

**Senator Frith:** Yes, depending on which incoming government you are referring to. Even on that, we would not agree.

On behalf of the government and myself, I am glad that we have had the pleasure, the fun and the honour to have shared this chamber with Senator Donahoe. As you know, he had a very distinguished career in politics and in law. He came to us as a former Attorney General, the highest law officer in any province and, in his case, Nova Scotia. He founded a dynasty of which he is the father and godfather.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** And the patriarch.

**Senator Frith:** And the patriarch, indeed. We are glad that he crowned such a successful career and successful life with service in the Senate. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to share that experience with him. We wish him a long, happy, fruitful and, I am sure, militant life, when he retires.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I agree with Senator Donahoe that the rules of relevancy have never been discussed at length in this chamber. Freedom of speech as we know it goes back to the period when Senator Martin was Leader of the Government. He could make anything relevant. When I was Deputy Speaker in the house I once told him to keep his remarks relevant. He told me that whatever argument he could make, if it was his own view and, in his view, relevant to the conclusion that he would make, then the Speaker could not intervene. Following that exchange, I completely abandoned any argument in favour of relevancy.

I had not anticipated having to say anything about the eventual retirement of Senator Donahoe today because his retirement only comes into effect in three or four months. If the incoming Prime Minister is not prepared to face the electorate soon, we should be sitting in September and at that time Senator Donahoe will still be with us.

Honourable senators, on this side we had occasion a few weeks ago to gather together to express our sentiments to Senator Donahoe and his wife. I think that the deputy leader has expressed very well how all of us in this chamber feel with respect to this great gentleman—this great Nova Scotian. As Senator Frith said, Senator Donahoe is the father of two well-known parliamentarians in Nova Scotia, the Minister of Education and the Speaker of the House, and he himself enjoyed an extensive career in the Nova Scotia government and the assembly.

● (1120)

Senator Donahoe has been a great companion and friend not only to this side but to everyone in this chamber.

I do not want to say now that we will miss him because I hope we will see him again before that fateful day on which he is forced to retire. If that should not be the case, then I want

[Senator Frith.]

him to know that he leaves with our very best wishes, our warm affection and our great admiration.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Henry D. Hicks:** Honourable senators—

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I have to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Hicks speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill C-43.

**Senator Hicks:** Honourable senators, in view of the extraordinary intervention of Senator Donahoe on second reading of Bill C-43 and some other matters—and the aiding and abetting of his irrelevancy by Senators Frith and Flynn—I think it is unnecessary for me to say anything else on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

### THIRD READING

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

**Senator Hicks:** Honourable senators, I see no point in referring this bill to committee. As I explained in my remarks, it coincides with an act already on the statute books of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Therefore, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b), I move that this bill be read the third time now.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

### BANK ACT

#### BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the second reading of Bill C-30, to amend the Bank Act.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-30, to amend the Bank Act, is a very short bill.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Is it simple?

**Senator Frith:** I never say that, but I can say it is short. It amends subsection 302(7) of the Bank Act by changing the figure of 8 per cent to 16 per cent. The purpose of the bill is to raise the domestic asset ceiling on foreign bank subsidiaries operating in Canada, of which there are now approximately 60.

The 1980 Bank Act revisions provided for the first time that foreign bank subsidiaries could become full members of the Canadian banking community. That policy was undertaken to increase competition, to bring existing foreign bank officers under federal regulation and to respond to pressures for banking reciprocity from abroad. As honourable senators know, at