

sive agreement? Are they seeking to avoid Parliament on this question?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am glad to tell my friend that the question of trade with the United States has been receiving a good deal of attention by the cabinet in the last little while. I expect that a statement will be made on this matter fairly soon although I do not have a date in mind. If this statement is structured in the way I anticipate it will be, I think most of my friend's fears will be set to rest.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have some delayed answers to questions.

STATUS OF WOMEN

SENIOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS—REPLACEMENT OF FEMALE APPOINTEES

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on May 30 last by the Honourable Senator Marsden regarding senior government appointments—replacement of female appointees:

(The answer follows:)

In conversations with Task Force staff, it was learned that efforts were made to include women on both the Private Sector Advisory Committee and on the various special Study Teams. Most of the women who were invited to participate were unable to accept. This was, in part, because invitations were made within a relatively short time before Study Teams were expected to begin work. Also, given the need for regional representation, most potential team members were required to relocate to Ottawa within a fairly short period of time. The fact that team members or their companies or organizations are expected to donate their time may also be a contributing factor.

With respect to the final seven Study Teams still to be created, the Minister has received assurances from the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister that intensive efforts are being made to ensure adequate female representation. However, to date, very few women who were invited will be able to accept. Again, apparently part of the problem is the short notice. Study Teams being set up now will be expected to work full-time through the summer and be prepared to report in the early fall. The announcement concerning the membership of the new Study Teams is to be made in the near future.

Although this matter is of great concern, it is hoped that despite the low female representation, issues of particular relevance to women will be incorporated in all aspects of the work of the Task Force. Given this Government's commitment to improving the situation of women,

the Task Force will carefully consider the impact on Canadian women of all Task Force recommendations.

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on June 20 last by the Honourable Senator Olson, respecting agriculture and the sugar-beet industry—government policy.

(The answer follows:)

The Government has been reviewing a sugar/sweetener policy. It intends to announce a new policy in the near future that will be acceptable to farmers, processors, consumers and industrial users of sugar.

The processing of the 1984 crop will continue until the end of September. All equipment will be maintained and kept in place for potential use in 1986. Packaging and distribution of bulk sugar will continue. Bulk sugar will be shipped in from Vancouver and stored on site in the silos.

In the fall, a work sharing program will begin in order to maintain as many of their personnel as possible on payroll so they will have a full workforce available for the 1986 crop. Although they are trying to minimize the employment loss, there will be some lay-offs.

The plant in Winnipeg will be functioning normally; an estimated 24,000 acres of beets have been planted in Manitoba.

AVIATION DISASTERS

LOSS OF AIR-INDIA AIRCRAFT—TOKYO AIRPORT EXPLOSION—POSSIBLE ACTS OF TERRORISM

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on June 25 last by the Honourable Senator MacEachen regarding aviation disasters—loss of Air-India aircraft—Tokyo airport explosion—possible acts of terrorism.

(The answer follows:)

The Air India investigation is progressing systematically but there has as yet been no determination as to the cause of the crash. An Indian investigation team spent ten days in Canada in early August and all Canadian agencies cooperated fully in the visit. An Indian Commission of Inquiry is expected to begin public hearings in New Delhi in early October. Canada, along with Boeing Aircraft Co., the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and Air India will be represented as interested parties.

There were reports in the Indian media several months ago that some Sikhs in Canada were undergoing military training and arms were being shipped to the Punjab. These allegations were investigated by the Canadian authorities, but no evidence of such activities was ever uncovered.