

and has never been made available by any Government of Canada; nor will it be made available on this occasion. But it can be said that those members of the Senate who have positions of cabinet responsibility are fully occupied from dawn to dusk in the public interest of Canadians.

Senator Phillips: Do you mean that the Prime Minister has not told you what committees you serve on? He has not told the Minister of State for Economic Development which committees he serve on—or the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board? Surely it is time, honourable senators—or honourable ministers, I should say—it is about time you asked the Prime Minister exactly what cabinet committees you are on. Will you do that, and let us know?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF F-18A AIRCRAFT

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have an answer to Senator Charbonneau's question of April 17, when he asked if the minister could account for the discrepancy between spokesmen for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and McDonnell Douglas with respect to the number of indirect jobs generated by the contract?

The reply is as follows:

It is extraordinary if two economists ever agree on the ratio of direct to indirect jobs created by a project such as the NFA.

Officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce used a multiplier of 2.4 to 2.8: that is to say, 1.4 to 1.8 indirect jobs per every direct job generated.

The number of direct jobs generated—prorated on an annual basis—is 4,000. Using the above formula, this will result in 5,600 to 7,200 indirect jobs for a total of 9,600 to 11,200 jobs, direct and indirect.

I am not in a position to explain or defend figures provided by McDonnell Douglas if, indeed, they are at variance with our own. Perhaps the variance is the result of a misinterpretation by the press of the McDonnell Douglas figures.

I also have the answer to a question put by the Honourable Senator Duff Roblin, when he asked if the Minister was aware of a statement made by the President of the Air Industries Association of Canada to the effect that the members of the industry would require government support in order to undertake the F-18A contract work. He wanted to know if the minister confirmed its accuracy and what criteria would be used by the government.

The reply is as follows:

The government has a range of industry assistance programs already in existence which can be of benefit to the aerospace industry as well as other sectors. They include such programs as DIPP, the Defence Industry Productivity Program; EDP, the Enterprise Development

[Senator Perrault.]

Program, and RDIA, the Regional Development Incentives Act.

The honourable senator has not correctly understood the contract with McDonnell Douglas. Any assistance provided through the above programs to aerospace firms carrying out NFA offset work is not "extra" costs; rather, through DIPP and other programs, the government is covering the startup costs of companies carrying out specific contract work for McDonnell Douglas.

In terms of specific criteria of assistance programs such as EDP and DIPP, I would refer you to my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce under whose direction these programs are administered. Suffice it to say, in the administration of these programs as well as in the negotiation of the NFA contract, our goal has been to advance the technological capability and volume of Canadian business.

Honourable senators, I have a reply to another question by Senator Charbonneau, again on April 17, when he asked if the minister could explain the discrepancy between statements made by a representative of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and a representative of McDonnell Douglas with respect to the number of direct jobs generated by the NFA contract?

As you can see, the question is slightly different from the one I answered before, because what I read before related to indirect jobs and this answer relates to direct jobs. The answer is:

I stand by the estimate of officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce that activities generated through the NFA contract will provide between 60,000 and 70,000 person-years of direct work over the life of the contract.

The contract is over a 15-year period, prorated on an annual basis. That means about 4,000 direct jobs per year and that is a very conservative estimate of what might ultimately turn out to be as high as 5,000 jobs per year.

We are not in disagreement with McDonnell Douglas as to the projected overall number of direct jobs to be generated by the contract.

The contract is of a long-term, competitive nature with the result that some of these figures, in any event, cannot as yet be predicted with complete accuracy.

In order to get the best possible deal for Canada, our federal negotiators invariably estimated conservatively potential benefits accruing from the two contending packages. This may account for the difference between the two figures quoted by the honourable senator.

FINANCE

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS—INTEREST RATE AND REDEMPTIONS

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have a written reply ready for the Honourable Senator Doody respecting the question he