

Senator Perrault: That would be an unprecedented procedure, but there is an unprecedented situation in the other place. Certainly, Senator Godfrey's proposal will be taken under consideration.

Senator Flynn: As always.

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a grievance relating to all manpower training programs in that all the information emanating from the Department of Employment and Immigration does not go to every parliamentarian. I ask the Leader of the Government if he would check with the Department of Employment and Immigration to ensure that all senators are on the mailing list for the terms of reference that go out to those organizations or individuals who want to apply under the various programs. I know for a fact that we are not getting all the information, and I hope he will take steps to ensure that this does not recur.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, it was felt that in the Senate this afternoon it would be appropriate to have this statement delivered to the desk of each senator. Therefore, we are off to a good start as far as these current employment initiatives are concerned. Certainly, much depends upon the initiative of honourable senators in contacting departments and specifying exactly the type of material they want. Continuing representations are made to all ministries to make certain that senators receive all the information available to other members of Parliament.

[Translation]

Hon. Fernand-E. Leblanc: My question is directed to the Leader of the Government and concerns his statement that \$208 million will be spent on training and job creation to meet the needs of Canadians, especially young Canadians. I was wondering if the enabling legislation, which should appropriately follow the statement, will provide for a specific amount for each province, or will the \$208 million be distributed according to some other system as yet to be defined? Have quotas been established for each province? How is the \$208 million going to be divided? As you know, the Province of Quebec is in financial difficulty and urgently needs funds to help young Quebecers.

[English]

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, that detail is not currently available to me, but the question will be taken as notice, and as much information as possible will be brought to the Senate.

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I appreciate Senator Leblanc's question because I had in mind asking what might be available for the Atlantic region. Therefore, if the leader brings in a statement of this nature which would still have to be approved, as our leader has said, by the other place, I think it would be wise to bring in further information as to how many millions might be available for the Atlantic region and Quebec because, you know, we are not all fat cats like British Columbia, Alberta, Toronto and places like that. We would like to have a little more information.

[Senator Flynn.]

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, one thing that we can agree upon is that there is a need for fast action, the need to get this assistance to young people and others as quickly as possible. In this regard, I know that Senator Muir will again contact his former colleagues in the other place and ask them to end their strike.

Senator Olson: I thought he already had.

Senator Muir: I am wondering why the honourable leader would refer to what is happening in the other place as a "strike". There are justified reasons on both sides, but I shall not get into that at the moment.

However, further to what Senator Marshall has said, we receive many letters. Although Liberals may have taken our places in the House of Commons, the public may not be aware of that and still write to us or telephone us and request us personally to secure information regarding many facets of government operations, employment and so on. As Senator Marshall has said, every available bit of information should be made available to all honourable senators. As the Leader of the Government knows—because he is tremendously busy with his duties in this chamber, plus his western duties, plus his regular duties—you cannot always be—

Senator Olson: And his ordinary duties.

Senator Muir: —and his ordinary duties—one cannot always be calling various departments and asking, "What's new today, fellows?" You have to have the information sent to you.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, let me make it clear that I attempted to say, obviously not very successfully, that where there are regular mailing lists established by departments, often a request by a member of Parliament to be placed on a certain departmental mailing list means that, as a matter of course, certain information is provided to honourable senators and members of the House of Commons on a regular basis.

● (1430)

I wish to say that I acknowledge the fact that both Senator Muir and Senator Marshall, when they were in the other place, demonstrated their great capacity for hard work. They were effective members, and I know that as honourable senators they have the same attitude toward their regional responsibilities as other honourable senators.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: Perhaps I can assist in this process of making known to my colleagues the necessity for providing information to honourable senators in that fashion. If there is a department where there appears to be some delinquency or deficiency in providing information, I would appreciate being informed personally, so that I can see to it that action is taken.

Senator Olson: There is a checklist every month.