

Montreal in 1979, and the introduction of new services, such as the rapidly expanding Intelpost system, are others that are expected to continue generating both efficiencies and revenues.

THE CONSTITUTION

RENEWABLE RESOURCES—INDIRECT TAXATION BY PROVINCES

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by the distinguished Acting Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Marshall, concerning clarification of the government's position respecting indirect taxation on renewable resources by the provinces and, particularly, the position with regard to hydro-electric power.

The government is prepared to include in the proposed resolution on the Constitution a provision which would allow provincial governments to apply indirect taxes to their non-renewable natural resources and forestry resources, and to sites and facilities for the generation of electrical energy and the primary production therefrom. This taxation could apply whether or not the resources were exported from the province, provided that the tax did not discriminate between those resources used in the province and those exported.

Hon. Jack Marshall: I rise on a point of order after the kind words of the Deputy Leader of the Government. With the entry of my deputy leader, who is much more capable, I am now going to return to my seat in the second row.

AGRICULTURE

STORAGE CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Question No. 27 on the Order Paper—By **Hon. Jack Marshall:**

Has the Province of Newfoundland applied for assistance under the Storage Construction Assistance Program, and, if so, how many applications were received and how many were approved?

Reply by the Minister of Agriculture:

Yes: —Two

—None

(See answer to similar question, page 608 of the *Debates of the Senate*, July 10, 1980)

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to give a supplementary answer to what was not necessarily a supplementary question asked by Senator Phillips in his role as Acting Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. His question concerned the motion that the Standing Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs have the right to sit tomorrow while the Senate is sitting.

[Senator Perrault.]

● (2100)

In common with many other senators, I arrived late at the airport because of the weather problems we are experiencing. I came directly here and consequently I did not know, as I now do, that that committee meeting had been cancelled, no doubt partly for reasons mentioned by Senator Phillips.

BANKS AND BANKING LAW REVISION BILL, 1980

SECOND READING

Hon. Salter A. Hayden moved the second reading of Bill C-6, to revise the Bank Act, to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act and the Bank of Canada Act, to establish the Canadian Payments Association and to amend other acts in consequence thereof.

He said: Honourable senators, the first comment I must make is that the wisdom of the Senate in establishing the practice of pre-study of important bills introduced in the House of Commons, and commencing such pre-study as early as possible, has been justified again, if it needed any further justification.

Historically, it would be interesting to note just what the Senate committee, at the direction of the Senate, has done over the period that the banking legislation has been before Parliament. I should point out, first of all, that the 1967 Bank Act provided for the decennial review of the banking legislation in 1977. In 1976, the government of the day issued a white paper on banking legislation. That was during the summer recess, and when Parliament resumed in the fall, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce was directed to consider, study and report on the subject matter of the white paper.

That study was proceeded with over a considerable period of time, and the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce on the white paper on Canadian banking legislation was tabled in the Senate on June 8, 1977. The committee concluded its report with 37 recommendations or groups of recommendations. Bill C-15, a bill which followed shortly thereafter, included 24 of those proposed recommendations by way of amendment of the terms of the white paper.

Then the subject matter of Bill C-15 was studied by the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. This included, as well, Bill C-57, which had a very short life. It was introduced in the House of Commons in one session, and almost immediately we entered into another session which necessitated the reprinting and reintroduction of the bill. This time it became known as Bill C-15.

Bill C-15 was studied by the committee, which tabled its report on March 7, 1979. This contained 51 recommendations. Bill C-14, which succeeded Bill C-15, reflected approximately 35 of the recommendations made in respect of Bill C-15. Some of those recommendations and the amendments which proceeded from them had very important effects on the provisions that were originally outlined in the white paper.