

The minister responsible, the Honourable John Roberts, has already indicated that funding, as far as Canada is concerned, will be increased. Indeed, the representations my friend alluded to respecting our hope, and indeed our expectations, that the United States will take some positive action to clear this up, is an ongoing process, of course, through the Department of External Affairs and the director responsible for the environment in Canada.

**Senator Nurgitz:** I wonder whether the honourable senator could indicate if there is any anticipated date for a report?

**Senator Olson:** I am not sure I could give that, but I would be happy to take the question as notice and refer it to the minister, not only to get a date but to provide some further information.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

DEPUTY MINISTER—ALLEGATIONS BY NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

**Hon. Nathan Nurgitz:** I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. A rather disturbing account in yesterday's newspaper indicated that the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been labeled by the National Indian Brotherhood as "public enemy number one." In view of the fact that he is perceived as an adversary of the National Indian Brotherhood, and the likelihood of his having to solve critical problems—especially at this time of constitutional talks—is there any plan on the part of the government to alleviate these concerns, if not to replace Mr. Tellier by a more sympathetic person. If not, why not?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have not read the account in the newspapers. If the honourable senator has a complete statement issued by the National Indian Brotherhood, I would appreciate having a copy.

I shall take the question as notice and obtain any information which may be available.

## OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

TRIBUTE TO STAFF

**Hon. David Walker:** Honourable senators, I rise on a pleasant note. Would the Leader of the Government not agree with me that we are very fortunate in this house to have the exceedingly able reporting staff, such as we have under Mr. Tom Hubbard, doing such an excellent job on the reporting of our speeches, in both English and French.

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

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** I know that the sentiments of the distinguished Senator Walker enjoy the complete and enthusiastic support of every member of this chamber.

## ENERGY

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF NOVA, AN ALBERTA CORPORATION

**Hon. Martha P. Bielish:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development. The President of Nova, an Alberta Corporation, in predicting last week that his company will enjoy a profitable year in 1981, said that the larger portion of Nova's income growth would be met through an aggressive acquisition program rather than through exploration. Would the minister share with us his view on the tendency towards greater corporate concentration in the energy industry and indicate the government's expectations of the net benefit to Canadians of this phenomenon in terms of achieving the self-sufficiency goal?

● (2020)

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** Honourable senators, I believe the senior officer of Nova had a little more to say than that in the speech he made. He also indicated that his companies, or some of them at least, would also be allocating a substantial budget toward increased development of the land or leases that they now hold in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. It seems to me, from what he has said about additional acquisitions, that if this is a transfer from foreign ownership to Canadian ownership—and Nova is a Canadian company—then it is not in contradiction to stated federal government policy.

**Senator Bielish:** I have a supplementary question. In the same vein, I should like to know if it is the government's intention to apply to the acquisition of foreign-owned energy companies by Canadian companies the tough new anti-combines laws which the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has said he intends to introduce early in the new year.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, I am not sure that "tough" and "new" represent an accurate description, although if the honourable senator was quoting the minister, then I will accept that. However, the federal government, through the agency of FIRA, has for some time been very careful, to say the least, in allowing acquisitions of oil and gas resources in this country by foreign corporations.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS—STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Heath Macquarrie:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. It is based upon the strong statement made by my fellow Islander, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in Madrid just a few days ago, in reference to the repression and suppression of human rights and civil liberties in the Soviet Union. Could I ask the minister if it is the policy of the government to speak out strongly against such repression and suppression in all countries, and that we in Canada are not, in fact, concentrating our criticism upon the Soviet Union, but that we are aware of such repression in the People's Republic of China and many other