

CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Salter A. Hayden, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, reported that the committee had considered Bill C-219, to establish the Canada Development Corporation, and had directed that the bill be reported without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Hayden moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

VIETNAM

TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IN 1964—QUESTION ANSWERED

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, yesterday Senator Benidickson asked me a question, and in view of its importance I preferred to give consideration to it and reply later. Senator Benidickson's question related to the transmission of information between Canada and the United States in 1964. It is a long question and is to be found at page 1180 of Senate *Hansard*. My reply is as follows:

In his statement to the house on June 17, my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs gave an account of the actions of the Government at the time of which Senator Benidickson was speaking. I refer honourable senators to that statement, which includes one which I myself made on June 10, 1965, before the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

We were made aware, in general terms and through normal diplomatic channels, of the United States assessment of the situation in Indochina at that time. This assessment, it is important to note, reached us six months after Mr. Seaborn delivered his message referring to the probable United States reaction to further North Vietnamese activity in South Vietnam.

In his visit of December 1964, Mr. Seaborn was authorized by the Government, and by me as Secretary of State for External Affairs, only to ask if the North Vietnamese authorities had any message for him to pass on. We were not allied to the United States in its operations in Indochina and were not as fully informed about its various plans and intentions as seemingly were some other governments. Consequently, the Canadian Government had no precise advance information on what later transpired.

Throughout the period—now the subject of so much attention—the Canadian Government acted in good faith and with the sole object of reducing the chances of an extension of the war in Vietnam. I doubt very much if any responsible government would have refused to take part in an effort of this nature if it believed that by so doing there was some chance that the tragic war in Indochina might be brought nearer to an end. In this context I might also add that the facilities of the Canadian Commissioner to the International Control Commis-

sion, of which Mr. Seaborn was then the chairman, were used not only by the United States Government for conveying its message to the Government of North Vietnam, but that the same facilities were available to the Government of North Vietnam for conveying any messages it wished to communicate to the Government of the United States. Indeed, the reaction of the prime minister of North Vietnam to the messages he was given was faithfully conveyed to Washington by our Commissioner and the Canadian Government.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 5.45 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable Roland A. Ritchie, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned, and being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bills:

An Act relating to ambient air quality and to the control of air pollution.

An Act respecting unemployment insurance in Canada.

The Honourable Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons, then addressed the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General as follows:

May it please Your Honour:

The Commons of Canada have voted certain supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Honour the following bill:

An Act for granting Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March 1972.

To which bill I humbly request Your Honour's assent.

The Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the said bill.

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.