

stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. I do, however, believe that this country can survive without Revenue Canada grabbing the last dime these people *do not* have in their pockets.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I shall take the question as notice and ask whether the Department of National Revenue can prepare a reply to it.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

TRADEOFF OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS JURISDICTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It refers to a news item that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* of last Saturday. The headline reads: "Feds barter telecom powers for support on Constitution. Business users' group outraged by secret trade-off." It goes on to state:

The federal government has privately agreed to grant Saskatchewan a five-year extension of provincial jurisdiction over telecommunications, says a spokeswoman for federal Communications Minister Perrin Beatty.

But the secret request, granted by Ottawa in return for Saskatchewan's support of the accord on the Constitution reached in Charlottetown late last month, has prompted at least two other provinces to ask for similar treatment.

Is it correct that in order for the government to obtain the support of the Province of Saskatchewan for the Constitution it traded off this extension?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I would have to ask for a report from my colleagues Mr. Clark and Mr. Beatty on this matter. I do believe that Bill C-62, which has been pre-studied by the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications, and which is still before the House of Commons, provides for just the sort of administrative agreement to which the honourable senator refers between the federal government and the provincial authorities.

However, I will look into the matter and bring in a report as soon as I can. It should not take very long.

AGRICULTURE

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEW BRUNSWICK POTATO FARMERS—ERADICATION OF VIRUS—REQUEST FOR UPDATE

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, it is a wonder that the leader finds times to look into all of these matters for which he does not seem to have answers. Perhaps he might also ask the Minister of Agriculture to give us an update on what is transpiring with respect to the PVY-n virus which affects potatoes in Canada, California and other parts of the United States.

[Senator Frith.]

The Prince Edward Island seed potato market has been seriously disrupted by the finding of this PVY-n virus in the crop. Can the minister give us an update on the situation, so that the potato seed market in Prince Edward Island can return to where it was a few years ago before the PVY-n virus was found? Can he give us an update on the potential for again selling Prince Edward Island seed potatoes to the United States this year?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the Department of Agriculture advises me that federal officials are working closely with all provinces and the industry to remove PVY-n virus as a trade impediment in order to facilitate the opening of markets for seed potatoes. Leaf sampling is nearing completion. Positive fields have been found in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Follow-up sampling and trace-back is under way.

I am also informed that at the bi-national panel meeting on August 6 and 7 between officials from Agriculture Canada and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA endorsed the eradication plan as being biologically sound. The plan will be used as a basis for the Final Rule which should be in place before the 1992-93 shipping season.

The import requirements on the Final Rule are not dependent on the number of finds but will be based on the zoning concept around positive fields. Agriculture Canada has completed the confirmatory testing on a sample of Florida potatoes. It was found positive. Import restrictions are being developed for Florida, North Dakota, Maine, and Wisconsin.

COMMUNICATIONS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION—AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENT POLLS

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I rarely find myself in a situation where I can compliment the government on any matter, but today I have found one. That is the fact that the Minister of Immigration, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, released details of a public poll which he had had taken shortly after he tabled his Immigration Act. The results of this poll indicate the support—I suppose you could call it—for the government proposals insofar as the public is concerned, so I think it is commendable that the results of this poll were released.

I wonder if the minister would then agree that the details of all polls should be released. The government does a great deal of polling, and if it is able to produce a result to back a government initiative of the government such as this immigration bill, which is controversial, showing it has public support, would it not be proper that the details of all polls should be released? After all, they are paid for by the Canadian public and they should be available not only to the government for its purpose when it wants to support something. Everyone should have access to all of the information that is available.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, hundreds of polls are undertaken. The