

this one, because Senator Perrault is in Ottawa tonight undertaking some very important business.

Senator Flynn: For once I would be pleased to know more about that.

I would inform the Deputy Leader of the Government that Senator Perrault so far has taken as notice 32 questions, to which we have received no replies as yet. Before I put the list of those questions on the order paper, perhaps the deputy leader could ask the Leader of the Government to arrange to have some replies made available for the Senate. The record so far is rather poor.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, so far as I know, Senator Perrault left British Columbia with all problems solved. He is in Ottawa tonight attending a dinner given for some visiting native Indian groups. He expects to be present in the Senate shortly. I told him that I would try to handle his obligations for the first half hour or so, or until he arrived.

As to the list of unanswered questions, the point is well taken. We are also concerned about them. I inquired just 20 minutes before the Senate sat this evening about getting replies later this week or the following week. We hope to clean up the backlog very soon.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BANDS AND COUNCILS

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government, but in view of the invitation of the Deputy Leader of the Government I will ask him if he will be kind enough to convey my question to the leader. It is particularly appropriate that the government leader should be where the deputy leader said he is, because it may fit in with the subject of my question and might enable him to answer it.

My question refers to Treasury Board Order No. 763729 which says that it deals with Treasury Board approval of terms and conditions for the payment of contributions to Indian bands and councils.

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I refer the Leader of the Government to the draft agreement concerning financial contributions to Indian bands and Indian councils. This agreement purports to have been drawn up pursuant to the Treasury Board minute, or order, to which I referred, No. 763729, and I understand the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been trying to persuade Indian bands to sign it, effective as of April 1, 1980.

My specific question is as to whether any Indian bands in the maritime provinces have refused to sign that agreement on the grounds that there was insufficient or perhaps no prior consultation with Indian representatives as to its contents before the document was drawn.

Perhaps the deputy leader would permit me to add a supplementary question before he answers the first question. As a supplementary I would ask the Leader of the Government if

this is so, how many bands have refused; was there any such prior consultation, if so, with whom, and if not, why not?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on behalf of the Leader of the Government in the Senate I will take the original question and the supplementary as notice.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS INVOLVING CANADA AND U.S.S.R.— GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Richard A. Donahoe: Honourable senators, my question was also intended to be directed to the Leader of the Government, and in his absence I find that I am not able to do as the previous speaker has done and accept the invitation of the deputy leader to address the question to him, since it is a matter that deals with government policy. The only other senator on the other side this evening who should be aware of government policy is the Minister of State for Economic Development. I therefore address my question to him.

Is the Canadian government, having taken the decision that Canadian athletes should punish the Soviet Union by not attending the Olympic Games, prepared to reconsider its apparent decision that sports contact at other levels—for example, the Canada Cup hockey series—should continue unabated?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I am not sure that there has been a statement of government policy on that, but I would be very happy to take the question as notice and refer it to the two ministers who are responsible, namely, the Minister of External Affairs and the minister responsible for sports.

Senator Donahoe: I have a supplementary question. In the event that the stand taken is as it appears to be, namely, that the government will not take issue with the holding of the Canada Cup series, and given that at least five National Hockey League players—Charlie Simmer and Marcel Dionne of the Los Angeles Kings; Larry Robinson of the Montreal Canadiens; Bobby Smith and Steve Payne of the Minnesota North Stars—have all said publicly that they will not participate in the Canada Cup series if Soviet players are invited to attend, will the government, in those circumstances, undertake to reconsider its policy on this matter?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I will make sure that that message, or that information, is conveyed to the appropriate ministers.

ENERGY

EXCISE TAX ON DOMESTIC CRUDE OIL

Hon. R. James Balfour: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development.

Does the government intend to impose a tax on domestic crude oil over and above the negotiated price which will be