

summer, will give an update on the government's perspective of, or program with regard to, the economic evils besetting the country?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, there is a quick, full, ready and accurate reference with respect to what the Minister of Finance said in the other place today. I do not have with me a copy of their "blues," or however you wish to describe them, but the minister has indicated a number of times that he may be making a statement on the economy before this session either adjourns or prorogues, or whatever else happens to it.

Senator Flynn: Will that statement take the form of a mini-budget, or something of that nature?

Senator Olson: Obviously, the Minister of Finance will have to give those finer shades of interpretation my honourable friend is now seeking, and I am sure my friend realizes that.

Senator Flynn: If the question were put on Senator Phillips' motion calling for a new budget, would the minister intervene in the debate and invite the Senate to vote in favour of that motion?

Senator Olson: No, I do not think he would.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Would he intervene at all?

[Translation]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LEBANON—ISRAELI INVASION—GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

Hon. Martial Asselin: My question is directed to the Leader of the Government. On several occasions, at least twice, the Prime Minister of Canada made a statement addressed, among others, to the Prime Minister of Israel urging him unconditionally to withdraw his troops from Lebanon. Yesterday the Soviet Union sent a similar request to Israel, in practically the same terms as those of the Prime Minister of Canada, warning the Israelis that they must withdraw their troops from Lebanon. We are told that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has apparently made a similar statement.

Can the minister tell us what is now the attitude of the government with respect to that Middle East conflict?

[English]

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a situation report with respect to Lebanon. It bears today's date, and is from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I will read the statement:

We deplore the use of force in Lebanon.

We oppose all acts of terrorism, but we do not believe the present Israeli military activities are justified or that they will provide long-term security for the Israeli people.

We are encouraged to see that the ceasefire between Israel and Syria is holding.

There have, however, in recent hours been some reports that there has been sporadic gunfire.

[Senator Flynn.]

● (2020)

We urge these parties to do everything in their power to maintain this ceasefire.

We were concerned about the breakdown of the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the renewed fighting in Southern Beirut and hope that the present calm will prevail.

We continue to support the Security Council resolution of June 6 calling for an immediate ceasefire and unconditional and immediate Israeli withdrawal.

[Translation]

Senator Asselin: I have a supplementary. The Leader of the Government should explain, among other things, how the Canadian government would seem to support both the state of Israel and the Palestinians. Has the government not made up its mind yet? Would it like Israel to withdraw its troops unconditionally without any guarantee?

At the same time does Canada not also condemn the actions of Palestinians abroad, even against the people of Israel? Has a decision been made? Does Canada support Israel or the Palestinians?

[English]

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, the Canadian government deplores violence of all kinds. It has condemned terrorism on many occasions and deplores the wanton attacks on civilian populations in Israel and other areas and violence in other forms in the Middle East. That has been the consistent Canadian record. We have used our good offices time and time again to attempt to achieve peace in the Middle East. We have dedicated a great deal of effort and have contributed troops, as honourable senators are aware, to peacekeeping assignments in the Middle East. We are fully in support of those measures which, in the long term, are going to provide security for the people of Israel and other nations in the Middle East.

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, may I ask a supplementary question? When the Leader of the Government speaks of security for Israel and the Middle East, is he saying that he is asking that the boundaries of Israel be guaranteed in return for the withdrawal of their forces from Lebanon? My understanding is that Iraq, Libya, Syria and other countries have pledged themselves to the extermination of Israel; that they have said that they are going to sweep the Israeli people into the sea and so on; and that there still exists a state of war. Is there any guarantee of the integrity of the Israeli borders, if they do withdraw, or is that part of the request?

Senator Perrault: As long as any nation in the Middle East states that its ultimate objective is to destroy or to throw into the sea the Israelis, or any other peoples in the Middle East, then, of course, there will never be peace in the area. I do not want to go beyond the statement I have made this evening on the current situation in Lebanon. Honourable senators asked a broader question relating to Canadian policy with respect to other nations there—

Senator Asselin: It is very important.