

he wants to come visit me in Prince Edward Island, he must pay.

Now that the fare has been increased by 6 per cent, I am asking the Leader of the Government in the Senate to make representations to the Treasury Board to have these ferry trips provided free to Canadians to enable them to travel from one province to another without having to pay for crossing an interprovincial boundary.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I am afraid I cannot accept that suggestion.

PROPOSED TUNNEL OR CAUSEWAY BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND MAINLAND

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: I have one further question for the Leader of the Government. From his last answer, I understand that he considers it worth a great deal to come to Prince Edward Island. I also understand that, in order to make the culture of Prince Edward Island more readily available to outsiders, the government is considering joining the rest of the nation to that province by means of a tunnel or causeway. Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell me whether the government has that project on its agenda for the near future?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): My problem is that if I say yes to that question, my colleague from Newfoundland will wonder what I intend to do for him. However, he is a little too far away to be accommodated in that manner.

I suggest to my honourable friend that both of us must get behind the Honourable the Minister of the Environment and give a little push.

Senator Bonnell: Do I understand from the answer that the honourable leader has given that a tunnel or causeway to Prince Edward Island is not in the planning stage by cabinet at the present time?

Senator Roblin: My honourable friend knows that I cannot discuss what takes place in cabinet.

Senator Argue: But did it take place?

AGRICULTURE

POTATO INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, I have one further question relating to Atlantic Canada. At the present time in our country, agriculture is in a real crisis. I understand that the agricultural situation is fairly serious in the west, but in the east, where we depend so much on our potato, the price of potatoes now is down to approximately \$1.50 for a hundred pound bag. In fact, we are starting to bury them in the ground and the Province of Prince Edward Island is paying two cents per pound for them.

We in the Atlantic provinces are hoping that the federal Minister of Agriculture will offer to assist this very important

industry in the provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and perhaps even Newfoundland.

I would like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate if there is a government policy that we can expect very soon to assist the potato industry, and agriculture in general, in eastern Canada.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I will ask my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, what satisfaction he can give my friend.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

YUKON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Paul Lucier: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I am sure he has seen this full-page advertisement that appeared in most of the papers in Canada concerning the Yukon Indian Development Corporation. This is a funding program for native economic development and is very important, not only to the Indians of the Yukon but to native people all across Canada. We cannot discuss Indian self-government seriously when we are continuing to deny them the opportunity to get involved in programs that will lead them to that end.

I would like to know if the Leader of the Government in the Senate would consider making representations to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Indian people of the Yukon who are making this particular application, in an attempt to expedite this matter. These people have been waiting for 18 months for something that everyone is in favour of. Indeed, not only is everyone in favour of this development fund but their application has been called a model and they have received not one negative comment.

I wonder if the leader would, on behalf of the Indian people of the Yukon—because I know he has some feeling for them—take this matter before the cabinet and try to expedite it for them.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I can tell my honourable friend that during the past few months the department in charge of this particular activity has approved a number of projects totalling over some \$30 million and providing some 2,000 jobs. So, the officials are not exactly asleep at the switch with respect to this matter.

On the other hand, I understand the concern of my friend as to the particular project in question, and I will make inquiries to see what the status of that project is at the moment.

HUMAN RIGHTS

DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, the adoption by Parliament a few years ago of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms marked a significant advance in the attempt by the government, together with Canadians, to end discrimination based on age, racial descent, religion, and a number of