

SPORTS

PERFORMANCE OF TEAM CANADA AT WORLD HOCKEY TOURNAMENT IN VIENNA—QUESTION

Senator Molson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government, in view of the latest catastrophe that has overtaken Canada's representation in international hockey, whether any consideration is being given to changing the method by which Team Canada is constituted, recruited, coached, directed and managed.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I take great pride in the fact that tonight Canada played Czechoslovakia to a 3-all tie and, I understand, but for "a twist of fate" we would have emerged victorious. Having said that, a number of questions have been asked about the method of developing our teams for international competition. In view of Senator Molson's extensive background in this important Canadian sport, I would hope that he would be able to share his expertise in this subject with the government.

Senator Smith (Colchester): Honourable senators, I wonder if I could ask the Leader of the Government whether the taxpayers of Canada have contributed anything financially to this debacle between Canada and the Soviet Union in the field of hockey?

Senator Perrault: I am sorry, I do not know the financial details of our participation in the competition in Europe, but it is my understanding that taxpayers' money has not been diverted for that purpose. I think, however, as our distinguished Senator Sullivan, whom we are very glad to welcome back tonight, is aware, in all sports there are wins and there are losses and some hurt more than others, the honourable senator having been one of Canada's outstanding hockey players during his active athletic career.

NATIONAL UNITY

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS— QUESTION

Senator Asselin: Honourable senators, at the beginning of this session the Leader of the Government proposed that the Senate consider setting up a Senate committee to try to sell federalism. He said he would submit a sort of formula for such a committee of the Senate. I should like to know if the leader has abandoned his idea. What is happening in respect of this matter?

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, at no time have I ever said that the purpose of such a committee—if, in fact, the Senate supports the formation of such a committee—would be to "sell federalism." Rather, its purpose might be to study problems such as regional aspirations and regional disparities, and the views of Canadians in various regions about the future of this country, the future of the Constitution and other matters of that kind. The idea of a travelling Senate committee is still under active study by the government, and I would hope an announcement can be made in the next two or three weeks.

I want to assure honourable senators that the government is not being dilatory about this matter. It requires great care and thought to draw up appropriate terms of reference for such a committee.

In this regard, I acknowledge the constructive contribution of the Leader of the Opposition, who has provided me with a memorandum on the possible terms of reference for such a committee. The official opposition in this chamber has been most helpful, and I want to thank Senator Flynn and his colleagues for their interest and support. When the Leader of the Opposition is present in Ottawa again—I understand he may be here tomorrow—I hope that we can have further discussions.

I think there is a desire on the part of all members of the Senate to make positive contributions to the cause of national unity and a better understanding of Canada's problems at this particularly sensitive and critical time in the history of our country. The idea of a committee study has not been abandoned, but the shape and form of that possible Senate committee has not yet been finally established.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SCIENCE

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY BAN ON USE OF SACCHARIN—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from Thursday, March 31, the date on the motion of Senator Buckwold that the Standing Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Science be authorized to inquire into and report upon the proposed ban on the use of saccharin.

Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald: Honourable senators, before proceeding to speak to this motion moved by my colleague Senator Buckwold on March 31, I wonder if I might be allowed to say a few words of welcome to the four new senators. Two of them are well known to me, as I think they are to most of us. I am sure I will get to know the other two in the future. As the first speaker on the Orders of the Day, I want to take this opportunity to welcome the new senators, and to say that we are happy they have been appointed and that we look forward to the contributions they will make to the welfare of their provinces and this country.

When I adjourned this debate on March 31, I did so for two reasons. First, as the seconder of Senator Buckwold's motion, I wanted the opportunity to say a word or two about it. I recognized that, even if authorized, the committee could not commence its study before the Easter recess, and, therefore, I thought it wise to adjourn the debate so that we could all give the motion further consideration, and also hear the arguments pro and con from both Canada and the United States. That has, of course, happened. I do not know whether I am more convinced in my support of the motion than I was on March 31, but there has been considerable dialogue in Canada and the United States on this matter over the past few weeks.

When this matter was brought to our attention by Senator Buckwold I felt that perhaps the department had made a mistake. I did not believe, and I do not believe now, that the