

possibilities: either I am misinformed or else the government leader in the Senate is misinformed. He could look into this matter before he gives me his answer in a few days.

[English]

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, we are both right. It depends on what you mean by the words "diplomatic relations."

[Translation]

**Senator Corbin:** Honourable senators, please forgive me for taxing your patience. At the Interparliamentary Union Conference held in Ottawa under the auspices of the Canadian section, protesting Iranians were expelled on the instructions of the chairman of the Canadian section.

Does the government consider the totalitarian regime of Mr. Khomeini more important than these people who want to restore democracy in Iran?

[English]

**Senator Roblin:** I think my honourable friend will find that whatever action was taken by officials of the IPU was taken by them on their own authority, and on no other.

[Translation]

**Senator Corbin:** Honourable senators, the protesting Iranians expelled from the conference were thrown out by the RCMP on the instructions of the conference chairman. As it happens, he is also the chairman of the Canadian section of the Interparliamentary Union.

This is no longer a simple matter involving only the Interparliamentary Union. This incident involves the credibility of the Canadian government. This is why I asked my first question earlier. Either we have severed our diplomatic relations with Iran and no longer recognize the Khomeini regime, or else we no longer speak to any Iranian. What is the exact position of the Canadian government in this regard?

● (1450)

[English]

**Senator Roblin:** I have listened to my honourable friend's opinions and I do not share them.

## FISHERIES AND OCEANS

### SALE OF CANNED TUNA UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, yesterday, in response to two questions from my colleagues, the Leader of the Government indicated he would direct certain inquiries to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the tuna issue. Can the leader inform the Senate of the result of that inquiry?

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** I am still awaiting information from my colleague.

## DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have two delayed answers to oral questions.

[Senator Corbin.]

## ONTARIO

### TORNADO DAMAGE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on June 12 last by the Honourable Senator Molson regarding tornado damage in Ontario.

(The answer follows:)

In a statement to the House of Commons on June 13, 1985, the Minister assigned to this disaster stated:

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), in his capacity as the Minister responsible for emergency planning, will provide federal financial assistance to help Ontario meet the costs of recuperating from the effects of the May 31 tornado. This federal aid will be provided under the terms of the Disaster Financial Assistance arrangements, administered by Emergency Planning Canada.

The DFA arrangements provide a mechanism for responding to provincial requests for disaster aid. A formula relating the disaster expenditures to the population of the affected province is used to calculate the appropriate federal contribution. Federal cost sharing begins when provincial expenditures on disaster relief exceed one dollar per capita, and becomes progressively more substantial as expenditures increase. The DFA arrangements include guidelines which describe disaster relief needs eligible for federal financial assistance.

My colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), who is here today will be setting up a special fund for farm assistance to finance a portion of farm capital reconstructions and re-establishment which are not covered by commercial insurance or by the DFA. Up to \$5 million has been set aside for this purpose.

My colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), will take action to alleviate the hardship of residents in the stricken communities by making job creation funding available under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act to assist in community repair and restoration. This will help fund special restoration projects in such areas as Barrie and Grand Valley.

Fifteen additional employment and immigration staff members have been assigned to an emergency centre in Barrie to supplement the local staff in dealing with the loss of employment.

To help those who have lost their jobs as a result of the tornado, the Barrie office has set up a central unit to speed the processing of unemployment insurance claims, as well as an emergency cheque distribution centre.

The Ontario regional office of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion has established a task force to address the damage to manufacturers and service industries in the area.