

Senator Marchand: Honourable senators, I will do that. However, would the Leader of the Government in the Senate be good enough to either table some background documents on this matter in the Senate or perhaps provide background documentation to me privately so that I can better inform myself on the details of this subject and, in particular, of the position as put forward by the Government of Canada?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I do not know what documents are available that I could properly table here, but I can give my friend some information concerning the last offer which was made by the Government of Canada through the Deputy Prime Minister less than a week ago, on June 10.

We offered to pay for acquisition of non-forestry third-party interests, estimated at less than \$1 million. We would pay \$32 million for park operating and capital development over ten years. We would pay 75 per cent of the cost of acquiring third-party forestry interests which are normally shared 50-50: The estimated cost of this would be \$23 million. We would contribute \$50 million over ten years to a Queen Charlotte Islands regional development fund to support the diversification of the regional economy. The total value of the offer is \$106 million over ten years.

I may add to that that there is no dispute over the boundary. The British Columbia position is acceptable to Canada. It protects all of Lyell Island, including Windy Bay. To that I can only add that our offer is still on the table, and that the Government of Canada remains committed, as ever, to seeking a resolution to the issue.

Hon. George van Roggen: Honourable senators, I have a supplementary question. Is the Leader of the Government free to give us an idea of the dollar gap between the two governments?

It has been mentioned in the Vancouver press that the B.C. government has objected to the federal government offer, which does not provide sufficient to pay out the private forestry interests that will be expropriated as a result of the establishment of the park. I presume this refers to people's cutting rights.

From what the Leader of the Government has just said, it appears that the federal government offer involves paying 75 per cent of these forestry rights which were estimated at \$23 million. That would indicate that the other 25 per cent is only about \$7 million, which the provincial government will be expected to pay. Could he confirm that that is the only matter standing between the two parties in the settlement of this question?

Senator Murray: No, honourable senators. I do not have the entire file in front of me, but I do know that, for example, with regard to the \$50 million that we were to contribute over ten years to a Queen Charlotte Islands regional development fund to support diversification of the regional economy, British Columbia had asked for a \$100 million fund.

AGRICULTURE

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS TO WESTERN GRAIN FARMERS FOR 1987 CROP YEAR

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, the Leader of the Government will know that I am interested in whether or not there will be a program dealing with an acreage payment for the prairies for 1987.

I asked him a number of questions about the final payment, or the 70 per cent, for that program that was announced for 1986. I appreciate the answer he gave the other day to the effect that the cheques were going to be in the mail. I know quite a few farmers who have not yet received their cheques, but I expect that they are in the mail.

● (1530)

What I want to know today, although I do not expect an answer immediately, is whether or not the government is going to have a program for 1987 similar to that for 1986. There has been a further decline in the price of grain by at least 18 per cent in the initial price. We do not know what the final payment will be, but thus far there is no indication that it will be compensated for in a final payment. Therefore, I would like to know before we adjourn on June 29 whether farmers can feel some relief from this through an announcement of the government.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I have nothing to add to the statements that were made on this matter in the other place as recently as yesterday by the Prime Minister. He said that the programs that will be introduced will be adapted to the circumstances, and will be designed to help Canadian farmers. He said that he and members of the government will be meeting with farmers, farm groups and provincial governments on this matter.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, many of those meetings have already taken place. The Leader of the Government advised me about two weeks ago that such meetings were taking place. Indeed, the provincial premiers of the four western provinces at a meeting about two weeks ago made their declaration as to what was an appropriate program at that time. I believe that the minimum indicated by the premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan was a program involving something like \$1.6 billion. Is the minister saying now that that is the information the Prime Minister was seeking and is now prepared to act upon?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I cannot undertake that a decision or an announcement will be made on this matter before we rise for the summer. But then, I do not know when we are going to rise for the summer.

PRIVATE BILL

YELLOWKNIFE ELECTRIC LTD.—THIRD READING

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz moved the third reading of Bill S-10, to revive Yellowknife Electric Ltd. and to provide for its continuance under the Canada Business Corporations Act.