

an unofficial commitment to accept 300 refugees from Cuba. Could we determine from the Secretary of State for External Affairs how this would compare with the numbers that were accepted from Chile?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): That question will be taken as notice. I think, however, honourable senators are aware of Canada's outstanding international record in accepting refugees from persecution wherever that persecution may occur. Indeed, Canada's record is one of the very best in the world. This is a policy that has gone beyond the bounds of any partisan difference, and Canadians can take pride in that fact. I am not certain of the exact numbers, but that information will be obtained.

Senator Nurgitz: Given Canada's outstanding record, as the Leader of the Government has explained, since smaller and poorer nations have allegedly declared their willingness to receive proportionately much greater numbers, is Canada intending to increase its commitment in offering freedom to people in various countries who have endured oppression for some considerable period of time?

Senator Perrault: If details are made available to me by the Honourable Senator Nurgitz, I would be most pleased to communicate that information to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. However, if there is a suggestion that Canada is not doing proportionately as well as certain other countries in the matter of receiving refugees, I disagree. For example, I suggest that the honourable senator study Canada's record in providing haven and refuge for the so-called boat people. I understand that Canada's record is among those of the top half-dozen nations in the entire world. Canada's record is substantially better than many, many countries with far larger populations.

Senator Flynn: Thank you for the compliment to the previous administration.

Senator Perrault: It is a record in which members of all parties can take pride.

NEWFOUNDLAND

ANNUAL SEAL HUNT—NEWSPAPER REPORT

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, it is only a month since the seal hunt finished in Newfoundland, and I think it might be appropriate to raise this question, which has to do with an article in the *Washington Star* in the United States, reported in yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen*, which indicated that protests from those in the United States against the annual Canadian seal hunt contain more than a little cultural arrogance, not to mention misinformation. In view of the fact that the matter is now clear, would the Leader of the Government ask the Minister of Fisheries, or the government, to send a letter of commendation to the *Washington Star* for pointing out to the hypocritical protesters that they are indeed wrong?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Over the years successive Canadian governments have been engaged in a program of public information with respect to the

seal hunt. I am sure that Canadians welcome efforts by any publication, domestic or foreign, to explain the Canadian position. However, I would suggest that the initiative proposed by the honourable senator be the subject of a letter to that publication. Alternatively, the honourable senator may wish to address it personally to the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, for communication through channels in Washington. I do not believe that this *Washington Star* article should necessarily be the subject of any Senate resolution as such.

Senator Marshall: I have already done that.

ANNUAL SEAL HUNT—DYE SPRAYING OF SEALS BY PROTESTERS

Hon. Jack Marshall: I have another question on the seal hunt. The same protesters, particularly the Greenpeace Organization, deliberately went to the seal hunt this year and sprayed the pelts of seals with a green dye, which may possibly hurt the meat and the animals themselves. Would the Leader of the Government inquire whether the appropriate government department will investigate the effects of that green dye on the seals, to further point out the hypocrisy of the protesters, particularly the Greenpeace Organization?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): That question will be communicated to the appropriate minister, and a reply will be obtained.

FINANCE

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—EXPENDITURE CUTS

Hon. C. William Doody: I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development relating to the Auditor General's report, which I realize is a very touchy subject and on which we are not supposed to go into any detail. My question concerns one of the points the Auditor General raised in relation to what he feels are serious financial management problems within the Government of Canada. Could the minister tell us what steps the government took in looking at expenditure cuts for arriving at that horrendous deficit figure of Monday night's budget of \$3.7 billion? What steps were taken to try to cut expenditure, in financial management terms, before we got into that rather startling new deficit figure?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, the expenditure cuts were related to many things, including a whole lot of last-minute promises that the previous government made just before the election. It is a fact that the Minister of Finance stated in his presentation last Monday night that there was some reconsideration of some of the ongoing programs to determine their continuing viability. He also made it very clear that if any significant new programs were to be introduced they would either be matched by increased revenue or would be delayed. There is, therefore, a fairly intensive review of expenditures so that the deficit, which is of concern to this government, and of the previous government too, is going to be brought under control.