

this situation in light of the developments that I have announced and because of the likelihood that the centre will close? Will federal funds be made available to support this centre? Federal funds are provided to Laurier House, and Pearson College of the Pacific can tap the proceeds of a \$4 million federal trust fund. Can the people of Canada, especially the people of western Canada, be assured that this centre will continue to operate? Can the thousands of people who come there each year continue to visit?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I thank Senator Buckwold for his representations in this regard. I shall make inquiries and report back.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

NATURAL GAS EXPORTS—U.S. REGULATORY COMMISSION'S DECISION

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I would like to ask the Leader of the Government if a reasonably satisfactory solution has been found to the dispute that was acknowledged by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and others respecting a decision that was made by the regulatory body in the United States on transportation charges for natural gas. I do not know whether the minister is familiar with the details of that dispute, but I expect that he is. FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the United States, passed a regulation prohibiting certain transportation charges. Unless some resolution is found, somewhere between \$140 million and \$400 million per annum will have to be paid by the gas producers in Canada, most of whom are in Alberta. It has been approximately ten days since this was a hot item. I have not seen much of it lately, but I also have not heard whether or not the government—and I know that they had good intentions, because they were stated by the Minister of External Affairs and others—was able to reach a satisfactory resolution of this problem with the United States.

• (1450)

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I am aware of the facts as stated by the honourable senator, but I do not have any further information to offer on the matter today. I shall make inquiries to see whether there is any further information that we can bring in tomorrow or the next day.

DELAYED ANSWER TO ORAL QUESTION

TRANSPORT

CN MAINTENANCE SHOPS, MELVILLE, SASKATCHEWAN—PROPOSED LAYOFFS

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on May 28 last by the Honourable Senator Argue regarding Transport—CN

[Senator Buckwold.]

Maintenance Shops, Melville, Saskatchewan—Proposed Layoffs.

(The answer follows:)

The Melville layoffs relate to a company-initiated, country-wide program to reduce operating costs prompted by recent technological improvements in the railway industry and a much more competitive marketplace.

The work which occupied the 47 employees in question is not being transferred to Winnipeg or elsewhere. The work has come to an end because of technological improvements in methods of operation and because of a reduction of over two million tons in Saskatchewan-based potash traffic since 1980.

The mayor of Melville met Monday, June 1, 1987, with Ron Lawless, Chief Executive Office, Canadian National in Montreal. Mr. Lawless undertook to review whether any further work could be found for Melville.

ANSWER TO ORDER PAPER QUESTION

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY—ENTERPRISE CAPE BRETON

Question No. 7 on the Order Paper—By **Hon. B. Alasdair Graham.**

3rd February, 1987—Of the 511 offers of assistance made to industry by Enterprise Cape Breton as of October 7th, 1986, (i) how many of these offers have been accepted; (ii) what sums of money have been paid out to each individual enterprise; (iii) how many jobs are currently in place in each of such individual enterprises and (iv) what plants and how many jobs are now in place in Cape Breton as a result of the Cape Breton tax credit?

Reply by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion:

(i) As of October 7, 1986, of the 511 offers of assistance made to industry by Enterprise Cape Breton, which also includes offers made by the Industrial Development Division (IDD) of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, 352 offers were accepted. Of this, Annex 1 lists the 134 companies/individuals to which funds were disbursed.

(ii) and (iii) Answer is provided in Annex 1.

(iv) As of October 7, 1986, 10 Cape Breton Investment Tax Credit certificates were issued which aided in supporting the creation of 52 jobs. Under the Income Tax Act, the identification of specific companies must be excluded.

ANNEX 1

ENTERPRISE CAPE BRETON

COMPANY/ INDIVIDUAL	AMOUNT DISBURSED	JOBS CREATED/ MAINTAINED
Sid's Machine Shop	\$ 9,000	/4
Roy MacLean & Son	55,000	/7