

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I must observe that the government is outnumbered by more than two to one in this chamber. If my honourable friend wishes to bring forward a motion on behalf of his party to refer a matter to a committee, I suspect that he can do so in the full confidence that such a motion will carry in this place. I have absolutely no objection to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce convening to hear witnesses from the drug industry or anywhere else on this matter; no objection whatsoever. The one plea that I made to my friend yesterday was that he try to do so at the least possible cost, in view of the fact that the overall committee budget has been overspent by a rather considerable amount in the present fiscal year.

● (1420)

Senator Olson: I also have a supplementary question, which is: Why doesn't the minister answer the question? I did not ask him whether or not we could bring forward a motion and have it passed by this kind of majority. I asked him if he would support such a motion, because we have the evidence that there has been something of a deviation from a pledge or an undertaking that was given to the committee. Why doesn't he answer the question? I have asked him four times now. We want to know whether the people in government are going to support the Senate's getting down to finding out what the excuse is for exceeding these price increases.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I have already stated quite clearly that I have no objection to such an initiative on the part of the Senate, but the honourable senator, as an experienced parliamentarian and former minister, should know that it would be very imprudent of me to sign on, in advance, to a motion that has not yet been drafted, much less presented in this house.

Senator Olson: I can tell my honourable friend that there are several hundred thousands, and perhaps even millions, of Canadians who would like to know where the government stands on this issue, and I am giving him an opportunity to state that, but, if he chooses not to, then we will have to wait.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION AT MEETING

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a very low-key question!

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Argue: Watch out!

Senator MacEachen: It has to do with the information that a number of provincial ministers have been designated to participate in a particular meeting of the GATT. My recollection is that there are four such ministers. I know the Minister of Industry from Nova Scotia was one of those chosen.

I wonder how the selection was made. Did provincial governments decide among themselves who would go, or was it a designation by the Government of Canada?

[Senator Olson.]

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I cannot answer that question fully. I would expect that the Governments of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec would be the other three provincial governments involved. Certainly Ontario and British Columbia are most concerned with the issue that is being discussed.

There have been discussions with all of the provinces relating to the proposed GATT ruling and to the attempt the government is making to negotiate a settlement of the issue. Discussions have been held with all provinces on that matter. Whether the four provinces were designated by the federal government or selected by the ten, I just do not know.

ANSWERS TO ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS

PUBLIC WORKS

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Question No. 27 on the Order Paper—By **Hon. Jack Marshall:**

13th August 1987—What is the list of contracts awarded by Public Works Canada for the years 1984-85 and 1985-86 in the Province of Newfoundland by federal district under (a) location of contract; (b) successful tender with name of Company; and (c) amount of contract?

Reply by the Minister of Public Works:

Insofar as Public Works is concerned:

1. See Annex A for the year 1984/85.
 2. See Annex B for the year 1985/86.
- Construction Contracts Awarded During 1984/85
Valued Under \$10,000.00. 688—\$1,563,931.00
- Construction Contracts Awarded During 1985/86
Valued Under \$10,000.00. 164—\$252,086.00

Annex "A"

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED DURING 1984/85 VALUED AT \$10,000 AND MORE

NEWFOUNDLAND

BONAVISTA-TRINITY-CONCEPTION

Gooseberry Cove	Breakwater Penny Roads Builders Ltd.	\$ 576,350
	Breakwater Wharf Straight Shore Construction Ltd.	\$ 359,855
Whitbourne	Rewiring Repairs, Painting, New Flag Pole, CPC Building Frank Gregory Ltd.	\$ 10,265
Catalina	Recap Pavement on Parking Lot Concord Paving Ltd.	\$ 10,400