

**Senator Olson:** In any event, regardless of Senator Flynn's objection, I will take the question as notice. I am not sure that I will provide a legal opinion, but I should like to hear from the minister who answers for that crown corporation before replying.

**Senator Marshall:** Christmas is close at hand. If the Leader of the Government is advised that it is legal to go across the border and buy a stamp for 20 cents instead of 30 cents will the government spend some of their millions of advertising dollars in so notifying Canadians, especially those of low income, before they mail their Christmas cards?

**Senator Olson:** I could not give that undertaking.

**Senator Flynn:** For once he is giving us a short answer.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR ANSWER

**Hon. Nathan Nurgitz:** Honourable senators, I have a brief question for the Deputy Leader of the Government who undertook on December 16, 1981, and again on June 3, 1982, to furnish the Senate with information concerning arms exports. This information is especially relevant today, when we are continually reading of problems in various parts of the world, and of Canadian firms not only exporting products that are used for arms but also receiving government grants to do it. Would the deputy leader advise as to which year we may expect that answer.

• (2020)

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I cannot do that, because ever since Senator Nurgitz first raised that question I have been trying to get an answer to it. I cannot make a prediction as to when I will be able to respond to that question. However, it was my understanding last week that a question of security clearance arose in respect to some of the details requested.

Every week I wonder when Senator Nurgitz will ask this question again since it is perfectly reasonable for him to have become impatient. I can only say that I am still trying to obtain an answer to his question.

## AGRICULTURE

### ATLANTIC REGION—PROPOSED VETERINARY COLLEGE

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have several delayed answers to questions, the first of which is in response to a question asked by Senator Macquarrie on October 26, which contained allegations that the federal government was stalling and never intended funding the veterinary college in Charlottetown.

Honourable senators, it is a relatively short answer, but I would ask that it be taken as read.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is it agreed?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

*(The answer follows:)*

The facts in this case are quite different. The federal government did offer to make a contribution towards the capital costs of the proposed veterinary college. However, the federal government was unable to do so because of the lack of unanimity amongst the four Atlantic provinces as to the location of this institution.

While Premiers Lee and Buchanan have signed an agreement which is full of conditions, Premier Buchanan has not provided the national government with a statement of his position. Before committing federal funds for this project, the government would like to have Premier Buchanan's full support without conditions and agreement from the other three provinces.

## ENERGY

### NEWFOUNDLAND—OFFSHORE RESOURCES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I have a further delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Doody on November 23 and 24 concerning whether the federal government was either considering or re-considering its position on the offshore situation.

The answer is that in his letter to Mr. James Thoms, Editor in Chief of the St. John's *Daily News*, the Prime Minister stated that he has "always believed that a negotiated settlement is possible and certainly desirable" and that, given the fact that the Supreme Court hearing has been set back to February 22, both he and Premier Peckford have yet another chance to review their positions.

If honourable senators so desire, I would be pleased to have the text of the Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Thoms incorporated as part of the answer.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, is it agreed?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

*(The letter follows:)*

November 22, 1982

Mr. James Thoms  
Editor in Chief  
The Daily News  
P.O. Box 8855  
St. John's (Newfoundland)

Dear Mr. Thoms:

Thank you for your telex of November 2, 1982 concerning the offshore negotiations. As you know Premier Peckford and I met on October 1st to see if there was a basis for renewing negotiations. To my very deep regret, the Premier and I found no such basis although I indicated that I felt it would be helpful to have our officials continue discussion at least on the revenue sharing concept where it is obvious that there are technical differences of view which they should be able to resolve easily.