

The honourable senator's question does not fall within the administrative responsibility of the government.

(Later)

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, following the example that Senator Roblin used when he sat on this side, I would like to ask a question arising out of the reply to my question. I now remember my question. I believe it dealt with an RCMP corporal who was alleged to have been an informant for the Honourable Elmer MacKay. My question is: What does the reply mean?

Senator Roblin: It simply means that the episode that took place was outside the administrative competence and jurisdiction of the government.

THE ENVIRONMENT

TOXICOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 17 last by the Honourable Senator Marsden regarding The Environment—Toxicology Research and Development—Government Policy.

(The answer follows:)

While there continues to be a high level of concern for the toxic problems in the Great Lakes, most recently in the Sarnia area, the solution of problems there have not been hampered thus far by lack of research or technical expertise, and considerable additional resources were allocated to effectively deal with the situation.

Insofar as a toxicology centre at Guelph, there continues to be a question as to the most effective allocation of federal resources as well as a continued level of active interest at Guelph.

A considerable amount of broadly-based toxicology research is already being done in Canada at present. It is important to note that four university-affiliated centres for toxicology already exist in Canada—a lot of it supported by federal and provincial funds. We must add to this the toxicology research activities in private sector laboratories and in federal and provincial government departments and agencies.

In addition, on June 4, 1985, the federal Environment Minister established the Wildlife Toxicology Fund. This fund is administered by the World Wildlife Fund on behalf of the Government of Canada, with the administrative costs covered by a "no strings attached" grant from a company from the private sector, namely Noranda Inc. The new fund will support high quality scientific work in universities and other non-government research institutions. Areas of research will include: effects of agricultural and forestry chemicals and other toxic pollutants on wildlife; monitoring of the success of measures to mitigate these effects; development and implementation of techniques that use wildlife as indicators for toxic

chemicals in the environment; and environmental pathways by which toxic substances may affect wildlife.

Any decision to allocate further federal funds to toxicology research, can only be made on the basis of the information currently being collected on Canada's toxicology research needs. In January 1985, the federal and provincial deputy ministers of the environment identified the need to review the toxicology research requirements of governments and industry. Accordingly three studies are currently underway. Environment Canada is examining government needs in toxicology research; the Science Council of Canada is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of toxicology in Canada; and the National Research Council is updating an earlier report on toxicology in Canada. To date, Environment Canada's consultations with industry have revealed little demand for services that cannot be met by parent companies abroad or by existing Canadian capacity. The provinces are currently responding to the Environment Canada questionnaire on toxicology needs. Once the Minister and his officials have reviewed all relevant information, the Government of Canada will be in a better position to decide what further federal funds should be allocated to toxicology research.

JUSTICE

CANADA COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON WAR CRIMINALS—COST AND SCOPE

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on January 30 last by the Honourable Senator Haidasz regarding Justice—Canada Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals—Cost and Scope.

(The answer follows:)

Application for funding is before Treasury Board. No dollar figures are now available.

The U.S.S.R. has not yet replied to the commission's request regarding travel and investigations. No decision has yet been made as to whether the commission will travel outside Canada. This is a decision entirely within the commission's mandate, and not one to be made by the government.

AGRICULTURE

WESTERN CANADA—DROUGHT CONDITIONS—GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE—DISPARITY IN CRITERIA FOR PAYMENTS TO GRAIN PRODUCERS AND BEEF PRODUCERS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on February 4 last by the Honourable Senator Argue regarding Agriculture—Western Canada—Drought Conditions—Government Assistance—Disparity in Criteria for Payments to Grain Producers and Beef Producers.

(The answer follows:)