

Guidelines to assist in the assessment of credibility are equally important. By issuing these new guidelines, it is hoped that, together with the explanatory material set forth in the UNHCR'S handbook on procedures and criteria for determining refugee status, they will assist committee members in meeting both the legal requirements of the legislation and the "spirit" of Canada's international commitment to refugees.

Other changes were also announced dealing with the composition, the structure and the operational procedures of the RSAC. First of all, the RSAC is to be made independent of the Immigration Commission. It will have its own resources sufficient to allow five panels to operate weekly. This will cut down on the long period of uncertainty and anxiety faced by claimants. Also announced was an increase in the number of private members from seven to ten and that the RSAC will make appointments to ensure regional representation. In this context, the minister will also be reviewing all the existing appointments.

The Minister also intends to appoint immigration or external affairs officers who are to serve on the committee. In the future, departmental appointees will be required to serve full time and be free of departmental responsibilities during the term of their appointment.

The secretariat of the RSAC will be substantially increased and positions will be established at a sufficiently high level to attract and retain the quality of individuals who can carry out this extremely important and demanding work. The minister is particularly anxious to immediately enhance the research capability of the committee so that the fullest and most current documentation on conditions in refugee producing countries is made available to members of the RSAC. This would include information from human rights groups such as Amnesty International and from church groups and other agencies and individuals. The Minister also feels that the RSAC secretariat, like the committee itself, would benefit from the recruitment of some individuals from outside the government.

In reply to the question as to whether the Immigration Appeal Board will be expanded to include a special refugee panel, this also was discussed at the national symposium and is now under review. That was one of the recommendations made by the Task Force on Immigration Practices and Procedures in its November 1981 report.

THE SENATE

SEATING PLAN—REQUEST FOR CHANGES IN BROCHURE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, this is by way of a final answer to a question asked by Senator Godfrey on the matter of the seating plan. It will be remembered that there was a discussion on the form this should take. I put an answer on the record in relation to this matter previously, and tonight we have that plan realized. I think it is a great improvement, and I assure honourable senators that by next week, when it is reproduced by the offset process, it will look even more handsome.

GRAIN

CROWNEST RATES—GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATOR—TERMS OF REFERENCE

Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board): Honourable senators, Senator Roblin asked me some questions regarding the terms of reference for Dr. Clay Gilson's negotiations with regard to freight rates on grain. I was subsequently able to provide some information to Senator Roblin, but I believe I now have the complete answer, in that Dr. Gilson's terms of reference have been released by the Minister of Transport today. I have them in my hand. If it is agreeable to the Senate I would ask that they be printed in today's *Hansard*.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(The terms of reference follow:)

The responsibility of the federal representative on western rail transportation, Dr. Clay Gilson, will be to identify and enhance the consensus among agricultural organizations on a number of issues related to the transportation of grain and to propose to the government specific measures which in his judgment will most effectively achieve the objectives contained in the Government of Canada's policy statement on western rail transportation. He should do this through intensive consultation with the major agricultural organizations in western Canada and the railways. More specifically, he should address with them the subjects listed in the policy statement requiring discussion, together with such other subjects he might consider appropriate.

In developing the consensus, the federal representative must have due regard for the financial limits contained in the government's statement, especially the total of \$3.2 billion the government is prepared to commit to the western railway system over the next four years, of which about \$440 million has been committed for branch line rehabilitation and the cost of existing hopper cars. Some of the funds will also be required to procure additional hopper cars. The residual will be the total amount of funds the government is prepared to make available as its share of meeting the cost of transporting grain over the fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86 inclusive.

The federal representative shall determine the appropriate procedure for the consultative process in order to accomplish the objectives outlined above.

The Minister of Transport will assume primary responsibility for consultation with the provincial governments concerning subjects related to western rail capacity. The federal representative may at his discretion seek information or advice from provincial officials.

He will advise the Minister of Transport on the progress of the consultations on a regular basis and will seek ministerial approval on those subjects which might require it during the consultative process.

At the conclusion of the consultative process, the federal representative will report to the Minister of Transport on the