

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEGA-PROJECTS—TQ&M PIPELINE

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I refer to the delayed answer given by the Minister of State for Economic Development concerning the TQ&M pipeline labour difficulties in Quebec, and would pose the following supplementary question: Would he be good enough to find out from his colleagues to whom he referred in his delayed answer why this interprovincial work, which is of interest to the whole of Canada, and of particular interest to the Atlantic provinces, is not subject to federal jurisdiction in the same way as any other interprovincial work?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Of course, that assertion is wrong. The pipeline itself, the acquisition of easements, the requirement for plans, profiles and books of reference are federal responsibilities because it is an interprovincial pipeline. However, the labour unions involved on the pipeline come under provincial jurisdiction because the provincial labour law applies.

In regard to some of the other assertions that were made regarding claims or threats and breaking the law, those matters also come under the administration of that part of the Criminal Code which comes under provincial jurisdiction.

Senator Smith: I did not make those assertions; I merely asked, as a supplementary question, for an explanation.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, the assertions that were made by my honourable friend related to what was contained in the original question. The original question, asked by Senator McElman, included some of those matters. Therefore, the whole question has to be taken into account when responding to a supplementary question. When we build a pipeline, it does not automatically mean that the administration of the Criminal Code or of the labour law in the province will come under federal jurisdiction. That should be completely clear to my honourable friend.

● (2050)

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): You are wrong on the labour laws.

Senator Smith: Honourable senators, I am always glad when my honourable friend decides to tell me what the law is, but that is not what I asked him. I asked him if he would inquire from his colleagues, who supplied him with the answer he gave us, as to the grounds they had determined that this interprovincial work—which is also, I might say, work for the general advantage of Canada, although it may not have been declared as such, and which is of great interest to the Atlantic provinces—does not come under federal jurisdiction in these matters, in the same way as, for instance, the railways do.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators. I gave my friend, in probably more detail than he wanted, the precise reply to his question.

Senator Flynn: You are wrong on labour law.

Senator Smith: Honourable senators, perhaps the honourable gentleman had better look up his law, and perhaps inquire from the Minister of Justice whether all labour matters in Canada, especially in relation to works of interprovincial concern and, therefore, under federal jurisdiction, necessarily come under provincial jurisdiction. Before he sets out to give me a lecture on the law, he had better inform himself on what the law is.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I have, and my answer is just as accurate now as it was a few minutes ago when I gave it.

Senator Smith: Honourable senators, if the thing was wrong a few minutes ago it is still wrong now.

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CONCESSIONAL FINANCING—NEGATIVE SPREAD ON LOANS

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, some days ago the Minister of State for Economic Development and I had exchanges on two subjects. I simply want to say for the record that I do not consider those matters closed, and that I am expecting a reply under the heading of delayed answers.

The first matter is with regard to the so-called negative spread interest rates, between the cost of the money to the Export Development Corporation and the rates at which the corporation lends the money out.

The second matter concerns the respective roles and responsibilities of the representatives of the Minister of State for Economic Development in the provinces, and those of the agents of the Federal-Provincial Relations Office in those provinces.

I would like to have, under delayed answers, a report on both of those matters at the minister's convenience.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I will take note of my honourable friend's expectations.

Hon. G. I. Smith: I do not think his expectations will be very high in view of his experience in asking questions.

LABOUR ADJUSTMENT BENEFITS BILL

SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Joan Neiman moved the second reading of Bill C-78, to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code.

She said: Honourable senators, Bill C-78, the Labour Adjustment Benefits Act, is a part of Labour Canada's participation in the \$350 million industry and labour adjustment program announced in January 1981 by the Ministers of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Employment and Immigration and Labour. As a component of the industrial restructuring, work force retraining and employee mobility promoted by the general program, the Labour Adjustment Benefits Act is designed to provide immediate relief from the distress caused