

agencies reporting to the various ministers and the areas of responsibility of the ministers. I think honourable senators know the information to which the Leader of the Government has just referred.

Senator Flynn: I should have thought that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, after having been on the government side for so long, would be knowledgeable about all these things and would not need to put that kind of question.

Senator Steuart: You told us you were changing things.

Senator Olson: We want to know what the changes are.

Senator Flynn: We do not mind providing information that you did not feel necessary before.

● (1520)

Senator Perrault: We asked the question only in the sure and certain knowledge that this new era of enlightened, open government, spoken about so eloquently by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, actually meant something in the working of Parliament.

Senator Flynn: It will certainly spread on the opposition, no doubt.

YUKON TERRITORY

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Senator Flynn: Honourable senators, in response to Senator Lucier's question of yesterday, I would like to say that it is the policy of this government to promote greater democracy in the Yukon. It is an issue upon which each party candidate in the Yukon took a stand in the general election. The will of the people for greater self-government is evident by their overwhelming mandate to the present Minister of Public Works.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Senator Flynn: The election result proves it, anyway. And I mean the result of the territorial election.

The government has maintained regular consultation with the people of the Yukon through the territorial council, and as well with representatives of the Yukon Council of Indians. Such consultations will continue, and Mr. Epp, the minister, intends to convene an early meeting between the Government of Canada, the Government of the Yukon Territory and the Council of Yukon Indians to discuss the resolution of issues prior to any amendment of the Yukon Act.

It must be pointed out to Senator Lucier that the extension of the powers of the Government of the Yukon Territory permits the exercise of democratic government to the limit allowed under the present legislation. Any further extension of the authority of the Yukon government will take place only

after full consultation with the people and, of course, those amendments would come before Parliament for debate.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REDUCTION IN FOREIGN AID

[*Translation*]

Senator Rizzuto: I should like to direct a question to Senator Asselin concerning our assistance to underdeveloped countries. You have advised the Senate that you would consider setting up a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons to deal with our foreign aid policy. Are we to understand that you do not share the opinion of the Minister of Finance who stated in Europe that Canada would reduce its assistance to the countries it has always helped?

Senator Asselin: The statement made by the Minister of Finance referred, of course, to the multilateral assistance Canada must provide to such international organizations as the World Bank, UNESCO, the International Monetary Fund, etc. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Finance intends to reduce Canada's assistance to international organizations in order to increase its bilateral assistance.

Moreover, the minister, speaking at a meeting of the International Monetary Fund, urged his counterparts to refrain from making any further commitments which would go beyond the scope of the IMF.

Senator Rizzuto: A supplementary question. Do you share personally this approach of the Minister of Finance?

Senator Asselin: It is, of course, up to the cabinet to decide, when it reviews Canada's foreign affairs and foreign aid policy, how the cutback referred to by the honourable senator will be effected.

Senator Rizzuto: Your reply does not reflect your personal opinion. I think you are responsible for this agency.

Senator Asselin: As a cabinet member, I know about ministerial solidarity. My replies are subject to the cabinet's decision.

[*English*]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Senator Bielish, seconded by Senator Charbonneau, for an Address in reply thereto.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, I know I speak on behalf of all honourable senators in opposition when I extend to the Leader of the Government in the Senate and his cabinet colleagues in this chamber my very best wishes as they assume