

Honourable senators, the short answer is no. The government is not at present considering any further sanctions against the U.S.S.R. beyond those outlined in the chamber on February 23.

#### COSTA RICA—ELECTION RESULTS

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, a question was asked by Senator Stollery on February 23 concerning whether or not the newly elected Costa Rican government supports the holding of next month's election in El Salvador.

The newly elected National Liberation Party government of Costa Rica, led by President Luis Alberto Monge, does, indeed, support the holding of next month's election in El Salvador.

However, although it has been recently elected, the new Costa Rican government does not take office until May 8, after the election in El Salvador.

### LABOUR ADJUSTMENT BENEFITS BILL

#### SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the debate on the motion of Senator Neiman for 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.

**Hon. C. William Doody:** Honourable senators, Bill C-78, which Senator Neiman presented so well yesterday, is really one that was presented in the other place back in 1981 and which, because of a ruling by Madam Speaker, had to be resubmitted in its true guise, namely, that of a bill of supply.

I note that the amount mentioned in Senator Neiman's remarks yesterday was something in the order of \$350 million, but it is my understanding that this bill represents a small portion of that total sum, perhaps somewhere in the order of \$7.5 million to \$10 million. I do not believe that anyone can really be sure as to what the total amount will be because no one really knows how many people will be laid off and in need of assistance. Therefore, it is a relatively small supply bill and also a small bill in terms of the number of Canadians who at this time desperately need help, those who are out of work or who are laid off and who have no hope of being re-employed in the immediate or foreseeable future. So, when Senator Neiman mentioned that the bill should not be considered as a panacea, one could regard it as one of the understatements of the year.

The bill really should not be considered in terms of the employment or unemployment situation in this country. As a matter of fact, its title—An Act to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code—is a little misleading because of the specifics or the qualifying factors of the bill which are really limited to a comparatively small number of people. My understanding is that it applies to perhaps 500, 600, 700 or 800 persons. The

bill may be applicable to more than that number because another commission is being set up to examine the credentials of those who, under the provisions of the bill, may qualify for help. So it is another level of bureaucracy for people to try to beat their way through in an attempt to obtain assistance in these horrendous times. I believe that is unfortunate.

It appears to me, from reading the bill, that it could be discriminatory. I do not know how the terms and conditions in the bill with regard to qualifiers for assistance is consistent with the new Charter of Rights which we expect to receive shortly from another government.

Therefore, honourable senators, I have to say that, all in all, this is not a major piece of legislation. In fact, when one considers the amount of time spent on it in the other place—it was back and forth in committee, presented and re-presented—it really is a rather sad commentary on the efforts of this government to deal with the economic problems of this country.

I know that the problems that exist in the country as a whole are similar to those in the area I represent, and we are in a very bad state indeed. I never imagined that there could be such appalling human conditions as those which exist in Newfoundland today. I was in the province over the weekend, and I never imagined that Newfoundland could be so humourless or so depressed as it is today. The fishery has been a complete disaster both inshore and offshore, which is very unusual. The economic conditions that are affecting the rest of Canada are even more apparent in Newfoundland, which has had a history of seasonal employment, at best, and chronic unemployment, at worst. Today all of these things are aggravating a very sad situation. The seal fishery is on the verge of extinction because of well-meaning but misinformed people all around the world, and, as I say, our regular fishery has been a disaster.

● (1500)

No money is being spent for construction. The industrial effort down there is nothing, and now, to cut off all the hopes and dreams and aspirations of our people, we have had the *Ocean Ranger* disaster, which has God knows what portents for the future of the offshore development.

Co-operative federalism, as has been discussed here today, has certainly not been very evident in dealing with the problems in that part of Canada, particularly as they relate to our offshore hopes and aspirations with regard to territory that was certainly an associative part of Newfoundland before Confederation, but which is apparently not to be recognized as part of Newfoundland subsequent to Confederation.

**Hon. Richard A. Donahoe:** No wonder. Co-operative federalism is dead.

**Senator Doody:** It has been so announced and pronounced. I hope that is wrong.

This bill is a band-aid measure, though inasmuch as it helps 900 or 1,000 people it is certainly welcome, for any help that any of those people who have been laid off work through no fault of their own can get is certainly to be commended. It