

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): That question clearly deals with the activities of the committee and, for what it is worth, my opinion is that it is a perfectly proper question.

Hon. Harry Hays: To answer the question by the Leader of the Opposition, the ball is now in the House of Commons' court, and we are awaiting their decision. There has been no change insofar as the committee is concerned. We voted not to televise the proceedings, and that is the way it stands at the moment.

Senator Flynn: The honourable joint chairman says that the ball is in the House of Commons' court. Would he explain that to me? I am not too sure what exactly he has in mind.

Senator Hays: I should say "both houses." I suppose that they would have to indicate that the proceedings of the committee should be televised, and probably that would imply, that the Senate would have to make the same sort of ruling.

Senator Flynn: You are not referring to the fact that the House of Commons has more influence on the committee than the Senate? Of course, as we know, it has more members.

Senator Hays: I would hope that that will never be the case.

While I am on my feet, honourable senators, I should like to announce that over the weekend Senator Bielish was greatly honoured in the Province of Alberta. They are going to hang her photograph in the Agricultural Hall of Fame. We are very proud of her.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE BUDGET—WESTERN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, I wonder if the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board could help me with a question that I put earlier to the Deputy Leader of the Government, when I asked him who will be the minister responsible for the Western Development Fund.

I might ask a related question of the minister of state as to whether the Western Development Fund will be used for new projects in the area of economic development in western Canada, or whether that fund will be used to finance existing commitments, such as development at Prince Rupert, the purchase of new hopper cars, and so on.

● (1450)

Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board): I am not sure who will disburse the funds. I am not even clear whether the \$4 billion or the \$2 billion, depending on the time period, would have to be lodged with one department, then to be apportioned among others. It may possibly be apportioned among departments where it is to be spent without its being handed first to some entity of the government. This strikes me as being a very sensible approach, but I am not an authority on how these things are done.

I am not in a position to answer the other part of my honourable friend's question as to whether this will be additional money over and above anything that has already been allocated to that area. However, I will give him my opinion, which may be a little dangerous, but I will do it anyway.

Senator Flynn: You're used to it.

Senator Argue: As I said, I am trying to give a frank answer to a question that I think is important.

Senator Asselin: We have only frank answers here.

Senator Argue: I would think that if the fund is to be of the kind required to help western Canada, under all the circumstances it would not be very helpful if the objective were that this fund should replace all the other assistance that has been provided in the past. Then it would just be a question of bookkeeping—moving the figures around.

My own impression and belief is that it is to be a real thing, and it is to add, in a general way, to the benefit of western Canada. I am not going to try and define what this means for any specific item such as extra hopper cars because there may be some variation as to whether part of an item was used before. Generally, as to principle, I feel that the endeavour will result in some additional benefits to western Canada.

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

COST OF PRINTING MONTHLY APPENDIX

Hon. Allister Grosart: My question to the Deputy Leader of the Government relates to the publication known as the *Debates of the Senate*, Volume 128, Number 58, for last Thursday, in which I find some 24 pages with some printing on them—some more than others—starting with "Appendix". This is all after the report of the adjournment. Would the Deputy Leader of the Government inform the Senate of the total cost of those 24 pages and the cost per page in view of the fact that some of them have more blank space than printing on them?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): I will endeavour to obtain the information the honourable senator seeks.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—SENATE PROCEDURE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, this answer may give rise to some further questions. I want to make it clear that I am not bringing this answer forward with a view to inhibiting in any way such further questions. This is an answer which I offer as the result of questions asked by Senators Grosart, Everett and Smith on November 5, 1980, with reference to the procedure for considering the proposed resolution when that matter comes back to us as a result of a report from the special joint committee.