

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have some delayed answers to questions.

THE CONSTITUTION

MEECH LAKE ACCORD—INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS BY PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA—PARALLEL ACCORD—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on January 23, 1990, by the Honourable Senator Austin respecting the Constitution—Meech Lake Accord—Innovative Proposals by Premier of British Columbia—Parallel Accord—Request for Statement of Government's Position.

(The answer follows:)

Partial text of remarks to the news media, January 23, 1990, by the Minister of State (Federal-Provincial Relations), responding to Premier Vander Zalm's proposal for Meech Lake:

I think it's obvious from the Premier's letter that he is not seeking to undo the Meech Lake Accord, but rather to find a solution that goes beyond what he notes are the divergent positions of those who have not fulfilled the commitments of their predecessors and ratified the Meech Lake Accord. Mr. Vander Zalm wants to see entrenched in the Constitution all of the elements of the Meech Lake Accord and he wants to build on what was achieved at Meech Lake in June of 1987. The linchpin of his proposal, and also its biggest problem, is to implement the Meech Lake Accord in two stages. Mr. Vander Zalm says that he has legal advice indicating that this is possible. For our part, we are not convinced that this is constitutionally correct and we will want to complete our own legal analysis, and perhaps seek outside counsel. So, in summary, while it is far from clear that this proposal contains the elements of a solution to the problem, nevertheless it does merit further discussion.

PAY EQUITY

PROVISIONS OF TREASURY BOARD STUDY OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE—POSITION OF SENATE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to questions asked in the Senate on December 20, 1989, and on January 30, 1990, by the Honourable Senator Marsden respecting Pay Equity—Provisions of Treasury Board Study of Federal Public Service—Position of Senate.

(The answer follows:)

The federal government would like to strengthen its equal-pay-for-work-of-equal-value provisions as soon as

possible. However, the current joint study analyzing the situation has suffered numerous delays. On December 13, 1989, the union representatives withdrew their participation. This was later followed by one of the member unions announcing through the media that it intended to withdraw its support altogether.

As for the publishing of reports: the government intends to release a statistical report on methodology in the next few weeks. Another report on the resolution of outstanding complaints for the Home Economics, Occupational and Physical Therapy, and Nursing groups will be published as soon as the consultations with the interested bargaining agents and the Canadian Human Rights Commission are completed. A third report relating to compensation will be published thereafter.

THE ENVIRONMENT

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM—CANADIAN ASSISTANCE—ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES CENTRE—STATUS REPORT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on February 14, 1990, by the Honourable Senator Molgat regarding The Environment—United Nations Program—Canadian Assistance—Establishment of Environmental Technologies Centre—Status Report.

(The answer follows:)

It is hoped that a joint public announcement can be made with the Government of Manitoba by the end of March in order to name the board of directors for the proposed International Institute for Sustainable Development, in Winnipeg.

Discussions have been ongoing between Environment Canada, Manitoba and interested international agencies on how to set up this important initiative. Over the last couple of months a common understanding has been reached regarding the most suitable role and mandate for the institute.

EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

FISH PLANT CLOSURES IN ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES—LABOUR ADJUSTMENT AID PACKAGE—COMPOSITION OF COMMUNITY FUTURES COMMITTEES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on January 23, 1990, by the Honourable Senator Stewart respecting Employment and Immigration—Fish Plant Closures in Atlantic Communities—Labour Adjustment Aid Package—Composition of Community Futures Committees in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia—Request for Information.

(The answer follows:)