

considered by the Canadian government in order that the average family farm might receive more assistance.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I will undertake to convey those representations to the responsible ministers.

Hon. H. A. Olson: Honourable senators, I should like to have a little more explanation, or perhaps the Leader of the Government would give an undertaking to provide further explanation on the one positive statement that he has made. He said that the \$1 billion would not be part of the obligations the government already has under existing programs, although it may use the vehicle of those programs to deliver the money.

Do I take it that the \$1 billion is in addition to whatever the government may be obliged to pay out under the Crop Insurance Program and the Western Grain Stabilization Program; that it is not simply part of those obligations but money over and above those obligations—obligations which the government already has to meet?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, the goal is to enhance the cash-flow of the farmers affected by approximately \$1 billion. Our statement is that we are not reallocating money from other farm programs, but we reserve the right to use existing legislation to deliver the enhanced cash-flow.

Senator Argue: In other words, it is new money, additional money.

Senator Olson: There is new money to meet the obligations which the government has respecting the Western Grain Stabilization Program, for example. There is a formula already in existence that requires a payment to be made under certain conditions, such as a decline in the cash-flow to the farming community. That is what I am curious about, namely, as to whether it is money in addition to that which the government is obliged to pay out now because of the formula that calls for such payment. I take it from the minister's explanation that it will be money in addition to the obligations relating to existing programs.

Senator Murray: The honourable senator is getting into a good deal of detail. I would want to examine this question closely, and, of course, I shall refer it to the Minister of Agriculture. The details of the program of assistance will be made available in due course, as soon as they are settled.

● (1420)

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

REQUEST FOR TEXT OF TELEX FROM PREMIER OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate, a question which I know is dear to his heart because it has to do with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Apparently some questions were asked of the Prime Minister in the other place about this agency, whereupon he pulled out of his hat a telex from the Premier of Prince Edward Island and began to quote from it. I understand that he did not have the permission

[Senator Argue.]

of the premier to quote from the telex, and I understand that he did not table the telex after quoting from it.

Would the Leader of the Government in the Senate procure for us the full text of that telex so that we can read the views of one of the premiers of the great provinces in Atlantic Canada as to the value of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency? The one paragraph that was read into the record of the other place sounds terrific. Perhaps, if we heard the other paragraphs, we in Atlantic Canada could support it as strongly as does the Prime Minister of Canada, whom I would like to give a boost to as well, but not until I see what the premier had to say in whole, not merely in part. I am quite sure that the Premier of Prince Edward Island would be pleased to have it released in its entirety.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I have seen the telex in question because the Premier of Prince Edward Island was good enough to send me a copy. While I do not have it in front of me and, therefore, cannot table it immediately, I can tell my friend that it was as positive in tone as the Prime Minister indicated, and that it went on to make some positive suggestions as to how we might proceed to establish and operate this agency. However, subject to the conditions that the honourable senator has mentioned, I shall attempt to table a copy of the telex in the Senate in a day or so.

Senator Bonnell: Thank you. That is the kind of leadership we want in the Senate.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Cogger, seconded by the Honourable Senator Barootes, for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to Her Speech at the opening of the Session.—(*Honourable Senator MacEachen, P.C.*). (1st day of resuming debate).

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I wish to thank Senator Cogger and Senator Barootes for launching us into this debate and for their strong efforts to buttress the Speech from the Throne. I think they did as good a job as possible with the material at hand. I would like to recall the debate on the Speech from the Throne which was given two years ago. I want to recall the words uttered then by the mover, Senator Macquarrie, who spoke in that debate on November 6, 1984. After surveying the distinguished membership of the Canadian Senate, Senator Macquarrie could not restrain himself from displaying his enthusiasm at the results of the election and said, “—here I am, standing up in the only legislative assembly in this vast country which has a Liberal majority.” Well, Senator Macquarrie did a service in drawing this imbalance to the attention