

ENERGY

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have another delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Hastings on February 13, 1985, relating to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Oil and Gas Development Agreement.

(The answer follows:)

Nova Scotia has not yet made a formal application for renegotiation of its existing agreement.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AFRICA—FAMINE RELIEF

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a further delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Olson with regard to famine relief for Africa.

(The answer follows:)

The focus of public attention in recent months has been on the famine in Africa and the Canadian response to it. The response of Canadians through private contributions and through Government funds has been substantial. On the Government side, in addition to the \$65 million allocated through the Special Fund for Africa, \$149 million has been spent on food aid primarily in those countries with the greatest need for famine relief. In Ethiopia, for example, over \$32 million in food aid was provided in 1984/1985 through all channels.

But in addition to these responses to the short-term crisis, the Government provides funds through a number of other channels that are focussed on the longer-term problem of how to increase food production. In 1984/1985, Canadian Government funds to Africa through all channels totalled more than \$800 million. Of this, nearly \$300 million was through CIDA's bilateral program.

The focus of CIDA's bilateral programs is on three priority sectors - agriculture, human resource development, and energy. In 1984/1985 agriculture and agriculture-related activities accounted for roughly 35 per cent of all bilateral expenditures. As example of the type of projects being undertaken to restore productivity in countries most affected by the drought, CIDA is providing direct support for agricultural production and marketing (e.g. improvements in dryland farming in the Sudan and integrated rural development in Mali), reforestation projects (e.g. reforestation programs in Niger, Burkina Faso and the Sudan), and rural infrastructure (e.g. rural water supplies in southern Ethiopia).

In summary, while the headlines focus on the immediate crisis and our response to the situation, the Canadian Government is also making a considerable effort to find longer-term solutions to the fundamental problems of agricultural productivity in Africa. But it should be pointed out that we are not alone in this effort — other nations

and international institutions such as the World Bank are involved in these efforts and our activities are closely coordinated and supportive of the goal of helping Africa to feed itself.

AGRICULTURE

MARKETING OF POTATOES

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, finally, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Corbin on February 19, 1985, with regard to the marketing of potatoes.

(The answer follows:)

No one would be more anxious than the Minister of Agriculture to develop, in conjunction and co-operation with his provincial colleagues and the potato producers and processors in this country, an effective marketing system, whatever that marketing system is. It is not in the Minister of Agriculture's hands to dictate; but rather, it is in the hands of the industry to design and to recommend to him.

The Minister of Agriculture had an opportunity to discuss this matter with people in the industry prior to making the decision, and he checked with a number of his colleagues in potato-producing provinces of the country as well. As with some other segments of our economy, the Minister of Agriculture thinks they have a tendency to be studied to death.

REQUESTS FOR ANSWERS

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether he has an answer to a question I asked on February 6, 1985, relating to a question asked by Senator Molgat. I asked whether it was true that we were selling oil in Chicago for 18 cents less than we were at that time selling it in Ontario; who paid for that 18-cent shortfall; was it the governments who lowered their taxes to accommodate that 18 cents; was it the oil companies that could still make a profit and sell oil for 18 cents less; and, if so, why isn't oil being sold for 18 cents less here?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, if my honourable friend has already asked that question, and he has told me that he has, it is quite unnecessary for him to repeat it because the question will be answered as soon as the information is available.

If my honourable friend wants to know why it has not been answered so far, that is different. I would respond by saying it is because the information has not yet been assembled, but it will be.

Senator Gigantès: Thank you.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I should like to request that the Leader of the Government read the answer to the question earlier referred to as being asked by me.