

lack of decision, covering international trade in agricultural products?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I am not sure I understand the purport of that question, because the members of this government automatically give the fullest possible reports on all matters.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Senator Olson: Perhaps I did not quite focus on the point my honourable friend was trying to make. There are certainly some areas, especially with respect to agriculture, in which we are dealing with matters of opinion as opposed to matters of fact, depending on what interpretation is put on the conference.

Senator Roblin: I can tell my honourable friend that what I am looking for is the opinion of the Canadian government on what went on in respect of agricultural products. If he could add a few facts as well, that would certainly be helpful.

Senator Olson: I now have a better understanding of what is wanted.

THE ECONOMY

ALLEGED OVERPRICING OF UNLEADED GASOLINE

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Last week Environment Canada leaked a report which said that the oil companies were charging excessive prices—about 12 cents a gallon too much for unleaded gasoline. In view of the fact that one government department says, "Our oil company is charging our customers too much for our gasoline," would our government request our oil company to lower our prices?

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): I do not accept the preamble to the question.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): It is ours.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): It is yours. It is your preamble.

Senator Olson: I do not accept as a fact that the Department of the Environment leaked a report for the purpose of stimulating public discussion. I simply cannot accept that, although that may be the opinion of my honourable friend. With respect to the other part of my friend's question, I will look carefully at tomorrow's *Hansard* to make sure I understand what he is asking and then I will try to give him a reply.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): You will catch on.

Senator Flynn: You should always do that.

SPORT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AMATEUR ATHLETICS— FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, I have a question for the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. As a result of the 1979 agreement between the federal and the provincial governments, the sum of \$12 million per year, indexed to 1979 levels, was supposed to go to the federal government for distribution to fitness and amateur sports groups.

Can the minister give us a list of the various amateur athletic groups that have received the benefit of that arrangement, and can he give us the dollar amount involved for each group?

● (2010)

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport): Honourable senators, the agreement that was entered into between the Clark government and the provinces with respect to lotteries in this country was, in my view, most unfortunate—

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Senator Perrault:—for the cause of sport in Canada.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): You did not say that at the time.

Senator Perrault: Had federal jurisdiction been retained with respect to lotteries, I suggest, with confidence, that we would now have many millions of dollars available for worthwhile sport and fitness endeavours from coast to coast.

Senator Flynn: Federal dollars are better than provincial dollars.

Senator Perrault: The action taken by the former government was, to say the least, imprudent and improvident. However, that agreement is in place, and it is the desire of the federal government to work co-operatively with the provinces to ensure that the proceeds from lotteries and sports pools benefit Canadians in all provinces.

As far as the allocation of the dollars is concerned, I am in the process of preparing a summary of those expenditures. A question was asked by Mr. Paproski, a well-known Alberta member of the former Conservative government, when I attended a meeting of the committee of the other place recently, in response to which I committed myself to the production of those figures.

Reports of that exchange appeared in newspapers. One story I read with amusement was to the effect that the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport did not know where that money went. Of course, I did not have a list of those expenditures before me when I attended that meeting. I was being candid and forthright when I said that I did not have those figures with me.

Senator Flynn: That is quite a change in attitude.