

we can expect further details rather than the half-page announcement issued by the Minister of Agriculture?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, despite my vast experience in agriculture in the province of British Columbia, I nevertheless feel that under these circumstances I must ask my distinguished and learned colleague, Senator Argue, to explain the nuances of the difference between agricultural boards and agencies. I think this is the kind of collegial approach to the sharing of responsibility that we now have on this side of the Senate.

**Senator Phillips:** It is a convenient method of passing the buck, isn't it, Senator Argue?

**Senator Flynn:** He refuses the buck.

**Senator Roblin:** Where does the buck stop?

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### RENEWAL OF NORAD AGREEMENT—REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENT

**Hon. Heath Macquarrie:** Honourable senators, when they stop passing the buck, perhaps I can put my question.

I should like to ask the Leader of the Government a question about the NORAD agreement, which is due for renewal in the very near future. Assuming that the government will agree to the extension of this practical and now popular accord originally signed by the government in office in 1958, will there be any reference to a parliamentary body of this important aspect of Canada's diplomatic and military commitment, and what form will such reference take?

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** The honourable senator is, of course, quite right in surmising that the subject of an extension of the NORAD agreement is a matter that is now under discussion. I must, however, take the essence of the question as notice. I do not as yet know the plans for a discussion or debate in Parliament on that subject. I have mentioned before that it may well serve a very valuable national purpose to have a full debate in the Senate on the subject of foreign policy. I know the Honourable Senator Macquarrie, with his extensive background in external affairs and foreign policy, might wish to be an active participant in just such a debate. This is a suggestion that I offer at this time, which I know enjoys the support of many honourable senators.

#### "AFGHANISTAN AND THE OLYMPICS"—STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators are aware, of course, that today in the other place the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, made an important statement on the subject of Afghanistan and the Olympics. If honourable senators see merit in the proposal, perhaps this statement could be appended to today's *Debates of the Senate*. It is an important statement and it may be a valuable document for reference purposes to have on our own record.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

(For text of statement see Appendix "A", p. 87)

● (2100)

### FINANCE

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTIC REGION

**Hon. G. I. Smith:** Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Economic Development. My question has to do with the omission from last night's "mini budget" of certain provisions included in the Honourable John Crosbie's budget. These provisions were of special concern to those interested in development in the Atlantic provinces. One of the omissions was the abandonment of the special incentives concerning construction of new fishing vessels, and another had to do with special arrangements with reference to new investment by firms beginning, or prepared to begin business, in those regions. That has to do with tax incentives, and so forth.

Is the minister aware of the reasons which compelled the government or persuaded the government to drop these badly needed provisions for the assistance of development in the Atlantic region, a region for which I heard him express some sympathy the other day?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** Honourable senators, if Senator Smith has not seen the communiqué sent to his office by the minister, or if he has not read it yet, I can read part of it to him. There is one paragraph which deals with his concern. The minister stated:

I am also not now making provisions for private corporations to be given tax contracts for investing in particular regions of the country. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion has considerable flexibility under existing legislation to support regional development. These mechanisms will naturally be under review, prior to the expiry of the legislation next year.

I assume that is the answer the honourable senator was seeking.

**Senator Smith (Colchester):** I thank the minister for referring me to the statement. It just happens that I had an opportunity to read it. However, that did not tell me the reasons why the government decided to drop these helpful provisions.

The question I am asking the minister is: What are the reasons, or are there any? The reasons are not given in the statement.

**Senator Olson:** Honourable senators, I think they are there, although I would not like to read them here now. Further on in the statement the Minister of Finance did explain the limitations of expenditure and the problems associated with them, not only for this program but many other programs as well.