

by the sponsoring minister for a ruling by a special committee of ministers, and the results would, necessarily, be communicated by the minister responsible.

ECONOMIC UNION AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS FOR CANADA

ROYAL COMMISSION—TERMS OF REFERENCE

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Roblin on November 17 concerning the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada as they relate to changes in the institutions of national government.

Honourable senators, the answer is fairly short, and I could read it, but I would ask that it be taken as read.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tem: Honourable senators, is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(The answer follows:)

Honourable senators, whether or not the Royal Commission wishes to consider changes in the institutions of national government such as the Senate would, of course, be up to the Royal Commission.

From the government's point of view, the terms of reference would certainly allow the Royal Commission to examine the reform of the Senate in the context of national policy-making relating to economic development.

Therefore, the Royal Commission would not be a major forum for ideas on Senate reform, but could study the institution in the context of how to make better national economic policy.

ROYAL COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT—ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA AND HELLIWELL COMMITTEE

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on this same subject I have a response to a question asked by Senator Murray on November 17, 1982 concerning the respective roles of the Economic Council of Canada, the committee headed by Professor Helliwell and the new royal commission headed by the Honourable Donald Macdonald.

The terms of reference of the Royal Commission on Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada are a matter of public record and were tabled in the Senate on November 8, 1982.

The Economic Council of Canada was created by an act of Parliament, which is also a matter of public record.

The role of the Economic Advisory Panel reporting to the Minister of Finance is outlined in an answer given to a similar question asked by Senator Tremblay at page 4987 of the *Debates of the Senate* of November 16, 1982.

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, I would ask the minister to go back and try to obtain an explanation for the existence, at public expense, of these three bodies which are doing work that is remarkably similar, if not overlapping, in this world of six-and-five and ostensible government restraint.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, Senator Murray can make that argument if he wishes.

Hon. R. James Balfour: It is a statement of fact.

Senator Olson: It is an opinion, and many senators opposite have a great deal of difficulty separating opinion from fact.

In any event, I will do what the honourable senator asks. It would then be factual to take excerpts from the terms of reference to which I have just referred. I am not sure that would help Senator Murray's argument very much, but I will respond precisely to the question he has asked.

Senator Murray: I would thank the minister and the government for doing so as soon as possible.

THE ECONOMY

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOND PROGRAM—STATISTICS

Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Roblin on November 18 concerning the number of small business bond transactions since November 1981 and the amounts of the loans.

Honourable senators, the answer is rather long and contains two tables, Table A and Table B, which give better meaning to the response being conveyed. I would, therefore, ask that the answer, containing the two tables, be taken as read.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tem: Honourable senators, is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Honourable senators, I am pleased to furnish Senator Roblin with the latest available statistics on the Small Business Development Bond Program.

Table A provides statistics on the Small Business Development Bond Program under existing legislation and takes into account information available, which is as of January 15, 1982. This Program was directed to corporations for development purposes and to assist those corporations in financial difficulty. Table B provides statistics on the Small Business Bond Program, as of April 28, 1982. This Program was provided for in the November 12, 1981 Budget. The Small Business Bond program will cover, in addition to corporations, unincorporated businesses and partnerships, including farmers and fishermen, in financial difficulty.