

gating or studying any of the crown corporations that report directly to me. However, I am not aware of its terms of reference or its composition, nor, for that matter, was I aware of the existence of this particular committee on CDC until I read the story you have referred to. I will be happy to get you the information.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Senator Thompson: I should like to direct a question to the honourable minister in charge of CIDA. I understand the minister has announced that there will be a parliamentary committee set up to study the work of CIDA. Is it his intention that that should be a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons?

Senator Asselin: Honourable senators, as I said yesterday, it is the intention of the government to establish a committee of Parliament to review the whole question of foreign aid and foreign policies of this country. I am inclined to suggest that this committee should be a joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

THE SENATE

COMMENTS BY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Bosa: Honourable senators, I should like to pose a question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. When I previously attempted to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Leader of the Government turned around and said, "What do you know about it?" I was asking a question which he felt was not within my competence. I am surprised at the attitude of the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I took that remark as belittling my question and probably intimidating me into not asking further questions. Is this going to be his attitude in the future towards new senators in this chamber?

Senator Flynn: I think it is rather amusing that Senator Bosa should take the bait so quickly. He said words to the effect, "In view of the fact that there is division within the cabinet . . .", and I said, "What do you know about that?" He replied that he had read it in the press. If he bases his knowledge only on what he reads in the press, I assure him that very often he is going to be mistaken. It is not an insult to ask him if he knows more than what he reads in the press. He can put as many questions as he wants, be they silly or not.

Senator Bosa: I had not posed the question yet. I was quoting from the *Debates of the Senate*. Would you not say that is an authoritative paper?

ENERGY

OIL PRICING POLICY

Senator McElman: Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Economic Development. It relates to a widely reported interview given by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister the weekend before last. I would refer particularly to that journal of truth and free speech in New Brunswick, the *Telegraph-Journal* of October 2. The interview had to do with the oil pricing system as administered by this government. The Prime Minister was being questioned about the increase in the domestic price to approach world level. The quotation reads:

● (1510)

Clark said in a weekend radio interview that higher prices would make industry competitive on world markets.

Perhaps I should read that again. I had to read it several times to believe it.

Clark said in a weekend radio interview that higher prices would make industry competitive on world markets.

My question to the minister is this: Does he subscribe to this strange economic philosophy; and, if so, could he explain to us how it works?

Senator de Cotret: Honourable senators, I can with no hesitation whatsoever assert that that is not the position of the Prime Minister, and never has been. I believe there are probably a few words missing in that quotation which would underline the basic tenet of our policy towards energy pricing, which is that there should always remain a margin between Canadian domestic prices and either the United States price or the world price, and that that differential should ensure that Canadian industry remains competitive in world markets. That has been the position of the Prime Minister all along, as well as that of the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Finance and myself.

Senator McElman: As a supplementary question I should like to ask whether, in light of the suggestion that this is perhaps not an accurate story, it would be possible for the minister to obtain a transcript of that interview for the benefit of the Senate.

Senator de Cotret: To the extent that it is possible to do so I shall be happy to use whatever efforts I can to get a transcript of the interview. I can only repeat that the words the honourable senator just read out do not in any way correspond with the position held by the Prime Minister of this country.

CROWN CORPORATIONS

DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

[Translation]

Senator Leblanc: Honourable senators, my question is for Senator de Cotret in his capacity as minister.