

agencies or corporations increasing, within the federal government itself, the problem of which the federal government and all governments within our federation have become aware with regard to their respective roles? Everyone is now aware that the problem of duplication exists with regard to federal-provincial relations. My question deals with the following point: Are we not now in the process of creating a problem of duplication within our very own sector of public administration?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I might perhaps mention that if good thinking lies in brevity, then this question is lacking in it. Still, the question is clear. I imagine it is possible some studies formed the basis of that part of the Speech from the Throne the Honourable Senator Tremblay quoted and, if so, that their purpose was to convince the government that setting up the Crown corporations or agencies, also mentioned by the honourable senator, would contribute to the efficiency of the government, precisely as the Speech from the Throne would have it.

Senator Tremblay: On a supplementary, if the honourable deputy leader will allow me.

Before or at the time of the introduction of the bills creating the new agencies, will there be a demonstration to enable us to judge for ourselves that there will really not be any duplication of functions between the new agencies and those that already exist?

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I hope so, but most certainly the agencies will be designated in the bills that will be introduced either here or in the other place. A committee of the Senate will eventually study the bills. I would think that the work and task duplication will be examined at that time as well, I hope, all other aspects. I am therefore convinced that the question asked by the honourable senator will be scrutinized by the committees of the Senate to which the bills will be referred.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hon. Martial Asselin: Honourable senators, I would like to direct my question to the Deputy Leader of the Government. During the last session the government proposed the establishment of a joint Senate-Commons committee to review Canada's foreign policy as well as its foreign aid policy. Does the government or the Secretary of State for External Affairs intend to present those proposals during this session?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I remember well the committee the honourable senator is alluding to. I do not know if it is the government's intention to reinstate it, but on behalf of the government leader I take the question as notice.

Senator Asselin: Is a reply forthcoming from the government leader?

[Senator Tremblay.]

Senator Frith: Yes, we will take care of it. I can accept on his behalf all questions put but I cannot reply except with his approval.

Senator Asselin: The reason I ask is that the Leader of the Opposition asked some questions and several other questions were asked but not answered, and I myself asked three or four important questions of the government leader. I am waiting for his answers to prepare my speech for the Throne Speech debate. Without his answers I cannot prepare my speech.

Senator Frith: If the honourable senator can specify on which questions he will base his speech for the Throne Speech debate I am sure that we will do all we can to help him.

Senator Asselin: Since I intend to speak soon can I hope to have the questions I put answered tomorrow?

Senator Frith: I do not think so. I am not saying that we do not have the answers but I do not think that you can count on having them tomorrow.

Senator Flynn: That is frank and honest.

● (2040)

[English]

INDUSTRY

ASSISTANCE TO SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, my question is for the Minister of State for Economic Development. It relates to the question posed by Senator Smith (Colchester) within the past two weeks, which was then followed up by myself with regard to possible financial assistance for the Sydney Steel Corporation, particularly with reference to debt charges and moneys for modernization—something which has been promised by the government.

Senator Charbonneau asked a similar question regarding the Chrysler Corporation, and in reply to that the minister said he would provide an answer "very soon." I am wondering whether he intends to respond this evening to my question regarding financial assistance for the Sydney Steel Corporation that it would be "soon" that moneys would be forthcoming, and if it is "soon," how soon is "soon," and if it is "very soon," how soon is "very soon"?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, the difference is in the shades of meaning between "soon" and "very soon." I am afraid I cannot even be that hopeful with respect to this matter. I shall take the question as notice and ask the responsible minister whether or not he can give the kind of definition my honourable friend is seeking.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DESECRATION OF CANADIAN WAR GRAVES IN FRANCE

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Deputy Leader of the Government. Recently 22 Canadian war graves of Jewish veterans were desecrated in Chateau Bretteville, France. Representations in connection