

against something that is not going to happen, that makes it still easier.

They ran on the basis of saving medicare against a supposed attack by a Liberal federal government at one time, and on another occasion against a supposed Conservative threat. Those were both false issues.

In any event, it is interesting to note that the Government of Canada has this year pledged \$612 million to keep the Crow.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): How much has Saskatchewan pledged?

Senator Argue: Saskatchewan has pledged nothing. The Government of Saskatchewan has given the people of Saskatchewan 16 speeches by Mr. MacMurchy, and a whole lot of propaganda. However, that is good politics, I suppose, and it could be pretty effective.

The policy of the federal government has been announced by the Minister of Transport. As I said, that policy is to pay \$612 million this year to keep the Crow rate exactly where it is, and to pay the railroads the losses that may be involved. Going on into the next few years the total commitment by the Government of Canada is \$3.2 billion. There is some room within this \$3.2 billion commitment, as I understand it, for a further increase next year, the following year and the year after, in the federal government's contribution.

The federal government has asked Dr. Clay Gilson to go out to western Canada and hold discussions with the principal people involved in the use of the railway. I quote from the policy statement which has been made public. It says that one of the major subjects to be dealt with in the consultations is the future responsibility for paying grain transportation costs. It is made very clear that the discussions will be centred around the apportionment of those increased costs resulting from future inflation and from an increased use by the grain shipper of those facilities.

● (1440)

The contribution of the federal government has been committed over this period at this rate. I have said this before, honourable senators, and I will repeat it. It is my understanding, and I have attended all of the meetings and read all of the documents, that it is a commitment for the future as well. When the new system is in use and is put into statutory form, with regard to the cost of wheat and the return from grain, I believe that farmers can look forward to an improved Crow rate in the future. If one relates to the price of grain, I expect that in the future the Crow rate will be even better than it has been in its 80-year history. I believe the federal government will establish a policy that will be in the best interests of everyone concerned. I would say that all of these accusations made by Mr. MacMurchy are patently false.

Senator Perrault: Hear, hear.

[Later:]

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I should like to raise a point of order with regard to the comments made by the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board. He

[Senator Argue.]

made reference to provincial governments conducting election campaigns critical of the federal government, and so forth. I simply want to point out that the Honourable John Buchanan ran his election campaign in Nova Scotia on his own record. I am sure that the honourable minister is aware that Premier Buchanan recently made a very amicable arrangement with the Prime Minister of this country despite the difficulties involved with offshore rights.

I do not want to take up too much time. We have yet to hear from the Honourable Senator Donahoe, who will be making a valuable and important contribution this afternoon. I merely wanted to bring this matter to the attention of the minister.

CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

TRADEMARK BILL

Hon. John M. Godfrey: Honourable senators, I should like to ask two questions of the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

One month ago today, on February 11, I asked him when we might expect a new trademark bill. At that time I pointed out that one such bill had been presented in the Senate three years ago. I think this would be an appropriate time for the Senate to study a trademark bill in committee. I ask the honourable senator whether he has any information on this matter?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, at the present time the trademark measure is not a leading matter of priority with the government.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS

REQUEST FOR STATISTICS

Hon. John M. Godfrey: Honourable senators, my second question involves a newspaper article written by Douglas Fisher which appeared in the *Toronto Sun* on January 22, 1982. In his column, Mr. Fisher stated that federal spending on fisheries amounts to \$400 million this year, and that the employees of the department are now 5,800 in number. He also stated that the total value this year for fish may hit \$1.4 billion. He went on to state:

To put that in perspective, the federal government will spend to manage, regulate and perpetuate our fisheries this year about a third of the total value produced. And we have 5,800 federal employees (plus another 2,000-odd provincial employees working in the field) as a frame and base for only three times that many fishermen.

The simple question to ask would be: Is that true? If not, what are the facts? However, I realize that such a question is against the rules of the house, so I will now demonstrate how to get around those rules.

I would like the Leader of the Government to supply answers to the following questions: How much does the federal government spend on fisheries in a year? What is the total value of the fish caught by Canadian fisheries in a year? How many federal employees are working in the fisheries field?