

an additive for the use of those individuals who find it a very important food substitute.

My question to the honourable the leader is: Is Canada considering a removal of the ban? Are there any other countries in the world that ban saccharin as Canada does? Is there any new information that might be useful with regard to the results of the ban in Canada, and is there any other scientific information that could be made available?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, because of the technical nature of the question it will be taken as notice. I know that all honourable senators are in accord with the Honourable Senator Buckwold that this is an important question, and it certainly will be given priority attention.

ENERGY

NUCLEAR ENERGY—INTERDEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development.

In view of the fact that the interdepartmental report on the nuclear industry has been leaked to the press—in fact, portions of it are carried in this morning's *Le Devoir*—will the minister undertake to obtain a copy of that report and table it in the Senate?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): No, honourable senators, I will not undertake to obtain a copy of a leaked document—an allegedly leaked document—but I will refer the matter to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who plays the leading role with respect to that matter, and will get his comments respecting the authenticity of the alleged leak.

Senator Murray: May I ask the Minister of State for Economic Development whether, in fact, the interdepartmental committee on the nuclear industry has reported?

Senator Olson: I will obtain that information too.

Senator Murray: Well, the departments for which the minister has some responsibility in the economic policy field are represented on that interdepartmental committee. Surely the minister must know whether or not there is a report in existence.

Senator Olson: The minister gave an undertaking less than half a minute ago that he will obtain that information, too, because what is important here, of course, is whether that interdepartmental committee has in fact completed its report and presented it to the minister, or to a group of ministers. When I have ascertained that, I will let the honourable senator know.

INDUSTRY

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. G. I. Smith: Honourable senators, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Economic

Development. Is he the minister responsible for the development of an industrial strategy for Canada?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): No, he is not.

Senator Smith: Would the honourable the minister say who is the minister responsible for the development of that industrial strategy?

Senator Olson: The honourable senator will know that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has made a number of comments respecting that matter, and, furthermore, he will also know that when a complete policy—an acceptable, complete and approved policy—is reached by the government, on all its aspects, which are many and varied, then the announcement no doubt will be made by that minister—namely, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Senator Smith: Honourable senators, I cannot refrain from observing that perhaps I know as much about what I know as the honourable the minister knows about what I know. I might suggest that he refrain from allegations as to what I know, unless he is willing to maintain for himself the same kind of accuracy he says we should follow, and he should be very careful with regard to making allegations about what anybody knows.

Having made that little dissertation, which is only about half as long as the honourable the minister would have made in similar circumstances, I would like to ask him if he can say what progress has been made in the formulation of this industrial strategy.

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, in response to the first part of the honourable senator's remarks, I want to say that I did not wish to offer any discourtesy to my honourable friend at all. It is just that I find it useful from time to time to fill in the gaps on things that I am sure honourable senators know. I hope he does not take offence at the way I put it.

With regard to the question concerning the progress that has been made, I think this is relative. I could say that a great deal of progress has been made, but perhaps my honourable friend would not agree with me; so it is something of a subjective reply.

Senator Smith: Honourable senators, is the honourable the minister able to say whether some basic tenets or principles with regard to this policy have been developed and accepted by the Government of Canada?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, a great deal of that was outlined by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I think, more than a year ago.

Senator Smith: Well, I am not surprised that it takes over a year to make very much progress. That is no surprise at all, so I will not say that I am surprised. It is most interesting to note, however, that after a year the minister is not able to give me a more complete and satisfactory answer than he has been able to do.