

As I say, I will be happy to give a more detailed description, in writing, of the role of the committee, the role of the chairman, and the role of the Minister of State, and I shall endeavour to do that in the very near future.

Senator Everett: I thank the minister, because I feel that that would be very useful to the members of the Senate. However, it would help us greatly if the minister could now verbally tell us what those line departments are that report to the committee.

● (1610)

Senator de Cotret: I will do my best at it. I hope I do not forget any. There is Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Energy, Transport. Obviously there is Industry, Trade and Commerce. There is DREE.

Senator McIlraith: CIDA?

Senator de Cotret: No, CIDA reports to the cabinet Committee on External Affairs and Defence.

Senator Olson: Communications?

Senator de Cotret: Communications? No, I am sorry, not Communications. I have already mentioned Fisheries. Labour. I had not mentioned the Ministry of Labour. I think I mentioned Transport and Regional Economic Expansion. The part of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that deals with northern development. Indian Affairs reports to the Social Affairs Committee.

The Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations sits on the Economic Development Committee, but of course there is a cabinet policy committee in that area so federal-provincial matters are not discussed in the Economic Development Committee.

I think I mentioned Agriculture. Employment and Immigration. Apart from the unemployment insurance aspect, Employment and Immigration reports to Economic Development.

I mentioned Industry, Trade and Commerce. The Minister of State for Science and Technology. I think that is a complete list.

Senator Everett: Let us take the example of DREE, Mr. Minister, which reports to the committee. Is it possible that because DREE is involved solely in development that the minister then would be capable of answering questions about the Department of Regional Economic Expansion?

Senator de Cotret: Honourable senators, I wish to make it clear that to the extent that I am able to answer questions relating to all of these departments, I will be happy to provide whatever information I can. To the extent that questions deal with the operations of the departments and are not of course subject to discussion in committee, I will endeavour to obtain from my colleagues the appropriate information and, as expeditiously as possible, present that to the Senate.

Senator Everett: What I am trying to delineate is to whom we should direct certain questions. This is important to us because the efficiency in asking and answering questions is important to this chamber. Certain questions the Leader of the

Government has said we should ask him and he will endeavour to obtain the answers, but where we are dealing strictly with development, as I understand it, the minister, I gather, would be capable of answering those questions, even though they involve another department, because, indeed, in his capacity—and I must give this name correctly—as Minister of State for Economic Development, he is dealing specifically with the departments on that point.

I just wanted to make it clear that if a matter comes up in respect of DREE, and the development work that DREE has done, we should put that question directly to the minister and not to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Senator de Cotret: Yes, that is correct.

Senator Everett: Thank you.

ENERGY

SUFFICIENCY OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES

Senator van Roggen: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

I assume that the committee which he chairs would have had an item in the Speech from the Throne directly relating to energy come before his committee. If not, he may wish to discuss this question with the Minister of Energy before giving a reply.

In the Speech from the Throne his government says, and I quote:

—my Government is committed to making Canada self-sufficient in energy by 1990.

I may not have the same interpretation of the word “self-sufficient” as has the minister, but as of the last year for which I have figures, if you take all of Canada’s energy exports and imports, including electricity, coal, oil, gas and uranium, we have a surplus in our balance of trade.

Senator Asselin: You are making a speech. Ask a question.

Senator van Roggen: No, no. I am asking a question. I will come to the point very quickly.

Senator Asselin: You are making a speech.

Senator van Roggen: I am entitled to a preamble in asking a question.

Senator Asselin: But you are making a speech.

Senator van Roggen: No, I am not making a speech.

Senator Asselin: Well, it is a long preamble.

Senator van Roggen: So that the minister can understand my question, I have to put to him that, when you take all of our energy trade, we have a surplus of about \$2 billion a year, and it is going up. So I would suggest that we are self-sufficient in energy. I would suggest to him that this wording is misleading to the Canadian public, and that perhaps what his government is trying to seek is self-sufficiency in oil.

My question is: Will the minister let this chamber know, in answer to my question, whether or not this is meant to be