

protecting Canada's interests and the jobs of Canadians at a time of high unemployment and of meeting our moral commitment to assist refugees from various forms of persecution. Successive Canadian governments have attempted to develop their policies with respect to refugees along these lines.

Senator Macquarrie: By way of clarification, let me say that, so far as I understand it, the priority the Somalis have is not that these people emigrate to Canada, but that assistance be given to that small struggling country dealing with its enormous problems.

Senator Perrault: I will take that question as notice.

FINANCE

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTIC REGION

Hon. Richard A. Donahoe: Honourable senators, in the course of this afternoon's proceedings, the Leader of the Government in the Senate has indicated to us that what transpired in the other place the other evening was not the presentation of a budget but a speech made by the Minister of Finance. We are all well aware, I am sure, that that speech comprised, in short, extracts from the Crosbie budget. The matters dealt with in that speech, as a result of their adoption by the Minister of Finance, now form part of the fiscal policy of this government.

● (1440)

My question is directed not so much to what was contained in that speech as to what was not contained in the speech. There were certain things from the Crosbie budget which, as the Leader of the Government was quick to say, were omitted, such as the 18-cent increase in the excise tax on gasoline. Various other items were also omitted from that part of the Crosbie budget that was adopted by the Minister of Finance, and it is to those items that I direct my question.

Can the Leader of the Government give us the rationale for withdrawing from those parts of the Crosbie budget that were adopted the proposal for tax incentives to new industries locating in parts of Quebec and the Atlantic provinces?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): First of all, honourable senators, I vehemently deny that it was a budget the other night. However, this is a matter that is being discussed in the other place. Certainly, it would not be in order for the Leader of the Government in the Senate to attempt to discuss points of order raised in the other place.

Secondly, honourable senators, the honourable senator has requested the rationale for various statements made during the eloquent speech given by the Honourable the Minister of Finance the other night in the other place.

May I quote a rather important paragraph from his statement? His historic words are:

I am also not now making provisions for private corporations to be given tax contracts for investing in particular regions of the country. The Department of Regional

[Senator Perrault.]

Economic Expansion has considerable flexibility under existing legislation to support regional development. These mechanisms will naturally be under review, prior to the expiry of the legislation next year.

I think the regions of the country can draw real hope from that statement.

Senator Donahoe: A supplementary question: Will the Leader of the Government tell us whether those incentives—those available under the policies of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion—were not also present and available at the time the Honourable John Crosbie's proposals for tax contracts were made in his budget?

Senator Perrault: There seems to be a view held by certain members of the opposition that somehow there is some moral obligation on the government which was given a mandate on February 18 to implement all or some of the Honourable John Crosbie's proposals. We do not regard that as our obligation.

Senator Flynn: I was quite sure the Leader of the Government would say that. This government has no moral obligation, period.

THE CABINET

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have a couple of delayed answers.

First, I wish to reply to a question posed by Senator Smith (Colchester) during Question Period on Tuesday, April 22. Senator Smith asked if there was, and I quote, "a Policy and Priorities Board or a Policy and Priorities Committee."

I wish to inform the honourable senator that there is a Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning which is chaired by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning addresses the broad strategy for priorities and planning of the government.

Regarding the honourable senator's request for the membership of this committee, I wish to state that this government has taken the position not to release the membership of the committee.

Senator Flynn: Are you a member of that committee?

Senator Olson: I have just said we will not release the names, and I am asked this question. I am sorry, I do not understand.

Senator Flynn: I wonder if the minister knows if he is or is not a member.

Senator Olson: I know whether I am a member or not, but I am not going to give that information out.

FINANCE

GOVERNMENT BORROWING—EFFECT ON EXCHANGE VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I also have a reply to several questions from Senator