

matters of interest to them—matters that are either partly or wholly within the jurisdiction of the federal government. I have heard their representations and conveyed them to the responsible ministers and departments and taken them into account in the development of our own policies.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN MANITOBA—NATURE OF CONTENTS

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate if he could give us more details pertaining to the letter the Prime Minister sent to the Aboriginal people, the Indian people in Manitoba, and what he offered them. We know he has offered them certain things that they have refused, but could he give us more details of what was offered to them pertaining, for example, to money? Was it in the form of grants, or what was it? There was some money involved in grants in that particular letter. What other matters were contained in the letter?

If I am wrong, would you explain to us the details contained in that letter?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, there was no question of money or financial grants at all, except some reference to reinstating the financial assistance that had been available during the last aboriginal constitutional process. I believe there was some reference to the fact that resources would be made available again, but the letter dealt with a number of constitutional, and some non-constitutional, issues as they affect the position of the Aboriginal peoples.

The most effective thing I could do to assist my honourable friend is to bring a copy of the letter in tomorrow and table it here.

Senator Guay: Thank you. I would appreciate that.

ENTERPRISE CAPE BRETON CORPORATION

REDUCTION IN STAFF—PROPOSED RELOCATION OF OFFICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I do not know how many more days we have before the guillotine strikes, but I wish to ask this question so that the leader can think about it and dwell on it.

Can the Leader of the Government advise if there has been a reduction in staff of the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation or Enterprise Cape Breton? Are there any plans to move all or portions of these offices to Halifax? I would hope that that is not correct.

Is it correct that at the moment we are short staffed in Enterprise Cape Breton or the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and that some wacko from Halifax is brought in to fill in for a day or two and then off he goes, back to Halifax? I

called him one day about something and he did not even know what a senator or a member was.

Senator Fairbairn: Shame!

Senator Petten: Shocking!

Senator Muir: I do not know where they picked him up. If he wants publicity, and to go down in posterity, he will be in *Hansard* for the rest of his life! These are a few of the things I want to find out.

The officers have been doing an excellent job in Cape Breton under ACOA. In fact, they have been doing an excellent job. I do not want anything to take place that will reduce their activities. I should hope that the leader will now devote some time to this. He has been terribly busy, I know. And, God bless him, he has done a good job. It is too bad that things worked out as they did, but I should like some concentration on the question I have posed. If he does not have answers today, perhaps he can get his efficient staff—he has another Cape Bretoner around here somewhere—to assist him.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I was pleased to hear Senator Muir's positive report on the contribution the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and ACOA are making to the economy of Cape Breton. I share his determination that that should continue unabated.

As to the particular questions regarding staffing, I will consult with my colleague, the Honourable Elmer MacKay, who is the responsible minister, and report back either to the Senate or directly to my honourable friend as soon as I have the information.

[Translation]

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT TOPOGRAPHY BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. Paul David moved the third reading of Bill C-57, an Act to provide for the protection of integrated circuit topographies and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

INCOME TAX ACT

BILL TO AMEND—THIRD READING

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard moved the third reading of Bill C-51, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

• (1710)

[English]

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senators, I do not propose to speak long, nor do I propose to vote against the third reading motion. I want to call the attention of honourable senators to the fifteenth report of the National Finance Committee. I must say that the government's defence of the bill was extraordinarily weak and that the attack on the bill, made by the Canadian Insolvency Association, was most impressive.