

With respect to the question on tax points, no up-to-date projections for post-secondary education transfers are available after 1995-96, as beyond that point, PSE and Health transfers will be merged into the CST.

Speaking generally, the value of tax points depends on the economy; typically their value grows with Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Moreover, since the tax points are equalized, differences in rates of growth between provinces are minimized.

#### Post-Secondary Education Transfers for the four Atlantic Provinces

Projections for 1994-95 and 1995-96 entitlements are as follows:

| EPF-PSE for the Atlantic Provinces (\$ millions) |         |      |       |         |      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|
|                                                  | 1994-95 |      |       | 1995-96 |      |       |
|                                                  | Tax     | Cash | Total | Tax     | Cash | Total |
| Newfoundland                                     | 64      | 59   | 123   | 68      | 55   | 123   |
| PEI                                              | 15      | 13   | 28    | 16      | 13   | 29    |
| Nova Scotia                                      | 104     | 94   | 198   | 110     | 88   | 199   |
| New Brunswick                                    | 84      | 76   | 160   | 89      | 72   | 161   |
| May not add due to rounding                      |         |      |       |         |      |       |

Beyond 1995-96, the new Canada Social Transfer will be introduced to cover health, post-secondary education and social assistance/social services. The following amounts for the Atlantic Provinces in 1996-97 are derived from data provided in the Budget:

| Canada Social Transfer 1996-97 (\$ millions) |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Newfoundland                                 | 551 |
| PEI                                          | 124 |
| Nova Scotia                                  | 875 |
| New Brunswick                                | 692 |

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PICTOU LANDING INDIAN BAND AGREEMENT BILL

#### THIRD READING

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved third reading of Bill C-60, respecting an agreement between Her Majesty in right of Canada and the Pictou Landing Indian Band.

[ Senator Graham ]

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

• (1450)

### DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE BILL

#### THIRD READING

**Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government)** moved the third reading of Bill C-47, to amend the Department of External Affairs Act and to make related amendments of other Acts.

[Translation]

**Hon. Roch Bolduc:** Honourable senators, I would like to comment briefly on this bill which is now at third reading. I was struck by the fact, and we talked about this in committee, that the mandate of the minister and his department is very vague. That is usually the case in legislation to establish a department, but at least there are a number of other acts that identify more specifically, for instance, within the Department of Finance, the responsibilities of the Inspector of Financial Institutions, and a department responsible for consumer affairs. There is a whole set of acts that provide guidelines and tell us what the minister should do and what his officials should do and that identify the parameters within which they must operate and set up their programs.

In the case of Foreign Affairs, for probably historical reasons, the legislation is particularly vague. Take, for instance, section 10(3), which reads, and I quote;

The Minister may develop and carry out programs related to the Minister's powers, duties and functions for the promotion of Canada's interests abroad, including:

- (a) the fostering of the expansion of Canada's international trade and commerce; and
- (b) the provision of assistance for developing countries.

It all sounds marvellous. No one could be against this. In concrete terms, this provision gives the minister enormous discretion.

I suppose that historically it was because the Department of Foreign Affairs went back to a time when it was the Prime Minister's responsibility, and when the Prime Minister spoke, he spoke for all members of his cabinet. Since at the time there was no quorum in cabinet, the Prime Minister had more or less carte blanche.

Still, it is rather strange. I realize that one may have to exercise greater discretion regarding international matters, but to say that diplomacy, defence and international aid are government programs does not say much. My point is that the minister and his officials are given very broad discretion. We must not forget that ministers have their officials. The minister is the spokesperson, but the officials often do the work, and that is true the world over.