

UNEMPLOYMENT

COMPILATION OF STATISTICS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on December 9, 1980, in response to a question from Senator Smith, I undertook to bring a supplementary statement to the Senate concerning the measurement of unemployment and the continuing efforts which are made to ensure the accuracy of the statistics.

I have been advised that Canada's official estimates of employment and unemployment are derived from the Labour Force Survey conducted monthly by Statistics Canada. Since its inception in 1945, this survey has been subject to continuous evaluation and improvement. In fact, the measures of employment and unemployment currently in use are the product of an in-depth review which culminated in 1975 with the introduction of a substantially revised survey which was created expressly to service the stated requirements of federal, provincial and other data users. The fact that the equivalent survey in the United States is about to adopt a number of techniques developed for the Canadian Labour Force Survey testifies to the excellence of what has been achieved. The design of the survey was also commended in the assessment of Statistics Canada's methodologies completed last year by an international team of experts headed by Sir Claus Moser.

The Labour Force Survey's definition of unemployment is based primarily on the presence of active job search, and it should be noted that job search is very broadly measured. For example, anyone without a job who has looked at job advertisements in the newspaper at any time during the previous four weeks would usually be counted as unemployed. The current definition of unemployment has been shown to be conceptually and operationally sound, and it is consistent with standards prescribed by international agencies such as the United Nations. It is also comparable to practices in most western industrialized countries.

No single definition however, can provide a complete picture of employment and unemployment, and in order to enable a better understanding of Canada's labour markets, Statistics Canada publishes a wide range of information underlying the summary data. The agency also conducts a number of supplementary surveys focusing on movements into and out of the labour force. As a result, the statistics available to assess labour market conditions in Canada are extremely comprehensive and informative.

In summary, while no survey can yield measures of employment and unemployment with absolute precision, we can take satisfaction from the knowledge that Statistics Canada is a recognized world leader in designing and carrying out such surveys, and that the agency strives continuously to ensure the accuracy and relevance of its labour force statistics.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

GARRISON DAM PROJECT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a response to some questions

asked by Honourable Senators Molgat and Roblin on February 12, 1981, and other occasions recently, concerning the Garrison diversion project.

In response to the questions raised by the honourable senators, I wish to report that the Secretary of State for External Affairs did take the opportunity of his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, General Haig, to raise the subject of the Garrison diversion project. Dr. MacGuigan noted the previous commitment of the U.S. government to honour its obligations under the Boundary Waters Treaty and remarked on the past co-operation of U.S. administrations. The subject was raised in order to express the serious nature of Canadian concern; however, there was no detailed discussion, and no new assurances were either sought or given. As the Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons on January 21, and again on February 18, he will be discussing the Garrison project with President Reagan during his visit to Canada.

As the Honourable Senator Roblin pointed out, on January 21 to 23 Canadian scientific and technical experts visited the U.S. Water and Power Resources Services Engineering and Research Center in Denver, Colorado, to receive a briefing on the most recent U.S. technical design modifications to the Garrison project. It is not planned to issue reports as a result of this meeting. Its purpose was to ensure that upcoming bilateral consultations are based on a firm understanding of the technical issues involved. The information gained will form one component of an overall presentation of the Canadian position at these consultations.

EAST COAST FISHERIES AND MARITIME BOUNDARY TREATIES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Asselin on February 12 concerning the East Coast Fisheries and Maritime Boundary Treaties.

The East Coast Fisheries and Maritime Boundary Treaties were signed March 29, 1979, in Washington by Secretary of State Vance and Canadian Ambassador Towe.

Secretary of State Haig assured the Secretary of State for External Affairs on January 30, 1981, in Washington that the new administration stood by the treaties and would continue to seek Senate consent to their ratification.

THE CONSTITUTION

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Asselin on February 17 concerning constitutional amendments proposed by the Women's Conference.

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister stated in the other place that the amendments proposed "are probably very sensitive and worthwhile additions", and that if they are moved in the house the government will "see if they are an improvement to the resolution or not" and will make its judgment in consequence.

There are two further points that may be of interest to the honourable senator. The first is a quotation from Doris Anderson regarding the amendments made to section 15:

I think the government's come a very long way toward meeting the concerns of Canadians, especially women.

Hon. Martial Asselin: You should have quoted her when she spoke about a statement by the Minister of Justice.

Senator Perrault: The second point is that the Progressive Conservative Party, which professes such interest in women's issues, voted against all but two of the amendments proposed by the Women's Conference when they were advanced before the Constitution Committee.

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

GARRISON DAM PROJECT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to the question asked by Senator Guay on February 18 last concerning the Garrison Dam project.

Canadian scientific and technical experts met with their American counterparts at the Water and Power Resources Service Engineering and Research Center in Colorado from January 21 to 23.

The meeting was of a technical nature in order to provide us with data for upcoming meetings with the Americans. The Americans showed us some technical innovations, but these did not fully meet our concerns. We thus remain with our previous position that we want an ironclad guarantee that there will be no interbasin transfer of biota.

As for the second part of the honourable senator's question, the Right Honourable the Prime Minister has stated he intends to raise the matter with President Reagan when he visits Canada in March.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—PRODUCTION OF IRISH MOSS

Question No. 12 on the Order Paper—By **Hon. Heath Macquarrie:**

1. What was (a) the total volume, and (b) the total value of Irish moss landings in each of the Atlantic provinces for the last ten fiscal years?
2. What assistance has the Government of Canada rendered towards the establishment of a carageen extraction plant in Prince Edward Island?
3. In what countries from 1969 to 1979 has Irish moss from Atlantic Canada been processed?
4. What was the value of such product?
5. What groups or individuals have requested Canadian government assistance in the construction of a carageen extraction plant in the Atlantic provinces?

Reply by the President of the Privy Council:

[Senator Perrault.]

I am informed by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Statistics Canada as follows:

1. This information is confidential, since it identifies individual respondents.
2. On June 23, 1980, DREE announced that Island Resources Ltd. of Tignish, Prince Edward Island had accepted an RDIA offer of \$195,333 towards the construction of a carageen plant on P.E.I.
3. This information is not available, since data on country of processing is not collected.
4. This information is confidential, since it identifies individual respondents.
5. Applications for incentives under the Regional Development Incentives Program, and related documentation, contain commercially confidential information related to business investment decisions. It is for this reason that the Department does not make public the fact that an application has been received, or the details of that application until an offer of incentive assistance has been accepted.

See reply to part 2 regarding accepted offer.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

THE CONSTITUTION—MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—PROPOSAL THAT RESUMPTION OF DEBATE BE FIRST ORDER OF THE DAY

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, before we proceed with Orders of the Day I should like to say that we on this side have had discussions with the Leader of the Opposition regarding the method by which we should deal with the Address on the Constitution resolution. One of the matters we discussed is the possibility of this being the first item on the Orders of the Day each day. Senator Roblin has told me that he feels it is a government matter and, therefore, that it can take whatever position the government wishes it to take on the Orders of the Day.

• (2120)

Rule 21 sets out the sequence for there is a set Orders of the Day, and requires third readings of bills to come first. I suggest we make it an order of the Senate that the debate on the Address respecting the Constitution be the first item on the Orders of the Day each day until the matter is disposed of. We can then deal with this important matter subject to that priority. I showed Senator Roblin a wording that would so provide and, therefore, I move:

That it be ordered that notwithstanding rule 21 the Order of the Day to resume the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Perrault, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Frith, that an Address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada, be the first Order of the Day until the motion is finally disposed of.