

made, it will nevertheless require a formal application by the Government of Newfoundland for a transmission line and the right to install such a transmission line—an application which I do not believe has been made to this date.

Senator Marshall: I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that the National Energy Board has the power to order access to transmission lines for an international contract such as would be developed for the transfer of electric power from Canada to New York?

Senator Olson: Honourable senators, I would not want to get involved in giving an interpretation on that. Obviously, the National Energy Board will, after it has received an application, look at the law and decide whether or not it has the power my honourable friend is referring to.

THE CONSTITUTION

STATUS OF REPORT OF LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, I wish to ask the Leader of the Government whether, in view of the current interest in constitutional reform, he can explain why there has not been forthcoming tonight the report of the subcommittee of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on which a number of our colleagues worked this summer? Even though the committee was unduly restricted in its terms of reference, as we on this side pointed out at the time, its report would be interesting and timely, if it is to be brought in immediately.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I believe we are all aware of the outstanding work done by senators from both sides of this house as members of that subcommittee.

I understand that the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will be meeting later this week to consider the matter of when the report should be tabled. I would not wish to anticipate what might take place at that meeting.

Senator Murray: Can the minister say, or, alternatively, can Senator Lamontagne, the chairman of the subcommittee, or Senator Goldenberg, the chairman of the committee, say whether there is a report ready or not?

Hon. H. Carl Goldenberg: Honourable senators, the committee, as Senator Murray has said, met a number of times during the summer. It agreed on the substance of its report on two of the matters referred to it. It has not had the opportunity of giving full consideration to the third matter.

In any event, the aspects of the Constitution referred to the committee, which were dealt with by a subcommittee under the chairmanship of Senator Lamontagne, are not directly related to the government proposals in the resolution to which reference has been made.

We will present a report in due course, but as I have said and as Senator Flynn knows, we did not have within our terms of reference any of the specific items which appear in the proposals to which Senator Murray made reference.

[Senator Olson]

Senator Murray: I would not enter a quibble at this point except to say that the proposed resolution, the proposed address, does, according to some rather authoritative interpretations, have a most profound effect upon the powers of this place. If I recall the terms of reference correctly, the role of the second chamber was discussed by that subcommittee.

Senator Goldenberg: The second part of the report will deal with the Senate, but I do not think Senator Murray is correct when he says that the proposals in the resolution deal with the Senate in terms of the future of the Senate as referred to the committee.

Senator Murray: The Senate will be written out of renewal if that resolution passes.

● (2050)

DELAYED ANSWERS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a number of delayed answers. Indeed, it has been a busy summer assembling all the data sought by members of the official opposition. Holidays were postponed in order to prepare this great sheaf of documentation.

I would not wish to act in an unparliamentary fashion, but the quantity of material is such that it might be satisfactory to the opposition if I read some of the short replies and placed some of the other material on the record. If honourable senators have any further questions we shall be glad to provide replies.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps if the Leader of the Government would give us the subject matter of each reply, we might then be able to decide.

Senator Perrault: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for another constructive suggestion.

Senator Argue: That is why we came back—for a constructive suggestion.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by Senator Macquarrie on June 5 concerning the appointment of a Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament.

Mr. A. R. Menzies, currently the Canadian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, will take up the duties of Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament in the fall after he completes his present assignment.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

EAST BLOCK—OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR SENATORS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by

Senator Lang on June 4, 1980, concerning accommodation in the East Block and the presence of House of Commons security forces in that building.

Senator Flynn: The senator is not here, so the reply can be printed.

(The answer follows:)

Public Works was advised by the Sergeant-at-Arms that the Honourable Don Johnston was assigned space in the East Block under the authority of Madam Speaker.

As a consequence of the partial occupancy of space by the House of Commons, the security services normal to a construction site were no longer considered adequate by the Sergeant-at-Arms and he undertook to provide the necessary services of the House of Commons security staff.

THE CABINET

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SENATE

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on April 15, the Leader of the Opposition asked a question concerning ministerial responsibility.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): That will be a long reply. It can be printed.

Senator Perrault: Thank you.

(The answer follows:)

Senator Argue is responsible to Parliament for the Canadian Wheat Board and Senator Olson is responsible to Parliament for the Economic Development portfolio and the Northern Pipeline Agency. Since both of these portfolios cover quite a wide range of areas, it is not possible to strictly define the exact responsibility of each minister within an extremely narrow area. Outside of the areas for which each of my colleagues represent through their portfolios, each of us does his best to represent and be responsible for this particular region, as do all honourable senators.

THE CONSTITUTION

ASPECTS OF SENATE STUDY

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition on June 11 concerning the discussion of immigration, cultural policy and social affairs as part of constitutional reform.

Immigration, cultural policy and social affairs are subjects of ongoing discussion at the federal-provincial level. It was agreed, however, by both provinces and the federal government that these subjects were not priorities for discussion during the September First Ministers' Conference. Therefore, these subjects will be topics of discussion at some future time.

Honourable senators are aware that the government has expressed its view that there should be conferences to discuss constitutional matters, particularly over the next two years.

THE ENVIRONMENT

CONVERSION OF U.S. ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS— POTENTIAL INCREASE IN AIR POLLUTION

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have an answer to a question asked by Senator Sherwood on June 26 concerning the potential increase in air pollution from the conversion of U.S. electricity generating stations.

(The answer follows:)

At a meeting between United States and Canadian officials on February 29, just prior to the legislation being introduced into the Congress, strong Canadian concerns were expressed over the fact that the coal conversion program would aggravate the already serious problem of acid rain. These concerns were reiterated by the Minister of the Environment in April at a meeting with Mr. Costle, Administrator of EPA, and Mr. Andrus, Secretary of Interior. The bill which was passed recently by only the U.S. Senate, specifically exempts the converting plants from the stringent new source performance standards of the U.S. Clean Air Act. The plants will be controlled to the extent required for existing facilities. Canada would have preferred to see a bill which required the application of best available control technology. The bill does include limited provision for grants to help defray the capital costs of pollution control equipment including coal washing facilities.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS—SALARIES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Muir on June 27 concerning the salaries of Order in Council appointees.

Hon. Robert Muir: Put it on the record; that will be satisfactory.

(The answer follows:)

The Minister of Finance undertook on June 27, 1980, when it came to his attention that this information on salary ranges had not been included in the lists, to ensure that in future when these salary ranges are established as the result of a current review they will be included as part of the information.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SPACE RESEARCH CORPORATION

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): On June 27 Senator Macquarrie asked a question concerning the purchase of Space Research Corporation by the national government.

(The answer follows:)