

Senator Roblin: Would my honourable friend be good enough to give us the amount of this extra production that is not linked to this area?

Senator Olson: Yes, I shall try to get that information. I did have some of the figures, but I am not sure that I have all of them here, or indeed whether I was viewing them in that context. I will get those figures.

THE CONSTITUTION DEBATE

MINISTER'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON AMENDING FORMULA

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development. My question is not directly related to his ministerial responsibilities.

I read with interest that the minister told a group of Liberal students at the University of Alberta that he disagrees with Prime Minister Trudeau's constitutional amending formula, and agrees with the amending formula supported by Mr. Clark, the Leader of the Opposition, which I think is called the Vancouver formula as compared to the Victoria Charter.

I am wondering whether it is the intention of the minister to fight for this change in the resolution, and whether he is going to proceed with that fight so as to have the resolution amended in the other place before it is referred to committee, or perhaps while it is in committee, or when it is reported back to this chamber. I would like to know when he proposes to fight for his convictions.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I also have the news report in question in front of me, and I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition immediately and categorically that I did not say some of the things I am reported to have said. I did not say, for example, that I disagree with the Prime Minister, and I did not say a number of other things that are in there. But I did say—and perhaps the Leader of the Opposition wants to make a big thing of this—that my own personal preference—

Senator Flynn: I could hardly make a big thing out of any statement of yours.

Senator Olson:—my own personal preference would be for a formula under which no province has a veto. I suppose you could then argue on the basis of the logic that things equal to the same things are equal to each other. All this comes down to the fact that the Victoria Charter formula is a formula under which two provinces would have a veto, whereas I would prefer a formula under which no province has a veto.

The Leader of the Opposition will know, from two experiences in cabinet, that when a cabinet makes a decision, the ministers support that decision even though they may have some slightly different personal preferences. But I can tell him today, without any reservations, that I intend to support the position taken collectively by the cabinet.

Senator Flynn: A supplementary question. Has the minister decided to renounce his principles and not attempt to have the cabinet change its mind?

Senator Perrault: Oh, come on!

Senator Flynn: Come on what?

Senator Perrault: Renunciation?

Senator Olson: I do not believe I have anything to add to the rather full explanation that I gave to the Leader of the Opposition a couple of minutes ago.

Senator Perrault: Hear, hear.

Senator Flynn: I didn't expect you would, but I did want to hear you say so.

INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT FORMS

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, my question is for the Minister of State for Economic Development. It was announced last week that the government intends to reduce the number of forms it requires to be filed by business and industry.

My question is in two parts. First, does this come at the initiative of the federal government, or was it in response to complaints made to the federal government by industry and business? Secondly, how much saving will be effected by this reduction in the paper burden by both the federal government and business and industry? Have there been any estimates made in that regard?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I shall have to get the actual figures of the breakdown. As I recall, we anticipate there will be an annual reduction of about \$200 million in the cost to business once the reduction in the paper burden that was announced last week has been in effect for a full year. By way of example, the elimination of the requirement for truckers to keep log books will result in a saving of \$36 million to that industry. But the major part of the reduction in the paper burden arises from the much shorter period required for the retention of records, which is very expensive.

I do not believe we have calculated the savings accruing to the federal government itself from this reduction in the paper burden, but certainly the fact that the forms no longer have to be printed will result in a significant saving. I shall try to obtain those figures.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ALGERIA—AID TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Hon. Heath Macquarrie: Honourable senators, my question is for the government leader. I am wondering whether there is any further information on Canadian assistance to the earthquake victims in Algeria, and especially in reference to the most welcome information about the shipment of powdered milk announced today.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have no further information with respect to the Algerian situation.