

consistent with the criteria of the federal government's Trade and Convention Centre Program.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HAITIAN REFUGEES—CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Senator Macquarrie asked a question on June 10, 1980, concerning the Haitian refugees.

Canada, in line with recent visa policy elsewhere in the world, now requires visas for Haitians who visit Canada. This measure will facilitate the entry of Haitian visitors at ports of entry. It will also reduce the illegal inflow of Haitians. Canada will accept 300 Haitians under its 1980 refugee and humanitarian program. This group will comprise persons who are in a precarious economic situation outside of Haiti, and who have family members in Canada. These measures were discussed with the Quebec government prior to their implementation.

THE CONSTITUTION DEBATE

INTERPRETATION OF SECTION 44 OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION ACT, 1980

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to the question asked by Senator Flynn on October 7, 1980, concerning a legal opinion on the constitutionality of the proposed resolution for a joint address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

As the honourable senator knows, with his profound knowledge of parliamentary procedure, a minister does not have to give a legal opinion on such a matter. In this case the minister has declined, with thanks.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): He can give his interpretation anyway, even if it is not a legal opinion.

Senator Perrault: The minister is not willing to provide that.

Senator Flynn: That is a better answer.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING PROGRAM

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): I have a delayed answer to a question asked by Senator Murray on October 7 concerning the continuation of a government advertising program on constitutional affairs.

Phase one of the constitutional advertising carried on and paid for out of public funds by the federal government should widely reflect Parliament. It is felt that those advertisements run in the month of August did just that. No constitutional advertisements have been featured since September 8, and the billboard advertising expired October 15. There has been no decision on a further constitutional campaign.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FEDERAL AID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTRES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Yesterday Senator Roblin asked me to locate, if possible, a copy of the letter to the Mayor of Winnipeg from the Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State for Small Businesses.

I have obtained the letter from the Honourable Charles Lapointe to the Mayor of Winnipeg and I shall be happy to provide the honourable senator with a copy. If he prefers to have the letter made part of today's record, I shall be pleased to do that.

Senator Roblin: Just a copy will be fine. Thank you.

THE CONSTITUTION DEBATE

ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Flynn asked a question on October 8 concerning the acceptance of the constitutional resolution by the British government.

The government has no reason to think that the United Kingdom government would do other than accede to a request from the Canadian Parliament to patriate the Constitution. Of course, in the view of the government that is precisely what the constitutional convention requires of the United Kingdom government. It is also precisely what British leaders have assured the Canadian government that they are prepared to do.

The government has been assured by the highest political authorities in the United Kingdom that, in accordance with existing constitutional convention, the British government will act upon a request of the Canadian Parliament to patriate the Constitution.

PUBLIC WORKS

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER RRAP AND CHIP SINCE INCEPTION OF PROGRAMS

Question No. 10 on the Order Paper—By **Hon. Jack Marshall:**

1. Since the inception of the RRAP program,
 - (a) what was the total amount allocated by province per year, and
 - (b) how many homeowners were given assistance in each federal constituency in Newfoundland, per year?
2. Since the inception of the CHIP program,
 - (a) what was the total amount allocated by province, per year, and
 - (b) how many homeowners were given assistance in each federal constituency in Canada, per year?

Reply by the Minister of Public Works:

1. (a) See Table I.