

● (1450)

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

DATE OF PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the riding of Terrebonne have been asking me the same question for several weeks now. They want to know exactly when the next Budget will be brought down. I imagine this situation is not unique to my riding and, Mr. Speaker, I think it proves that Canadians are concerned about the economy of their country.

My question to the Minister is as follows: Could he inform the House exactly when the new Budget is to be brought down?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the concerns of the constituents of my hon. colleague from Terrebonne, and I am sure that the Budget I shall be bringing down within a few weeks will be a very good Budget for all the economic problems this country is facing. Today, Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to announce that the Budget will be brought down on Thursday, May 23, 1985.

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[English]

FINANCE

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TAX CREDIT

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. I am sure the Minister is aware of the article in this weekend's *Globe and Mail* which revealed that some \$2.8 billion has now been lost because of the scientific research tax credit scam. The article also reveals that senior officials of National Revenue have been aware that, in spite of the moratorium imposed on the credit last fall, the moratorium has been consistently violated by the tax credit users which overwhelmingly are the largest corporations. Why has the Minister done nothing to terminate this obvious rip-off?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that last fall we moved very quickly to terminate what was the most obvious, to use the Hon. Member's expression, rip-off of this scientific research tax credit approach. I think the Hon. Member must be conscious of the fact that it was not just the large companies that were taking advantage of this. A lot of small companies were receiving a lot of benefit from obtaining access to very sorely needed funds to finance very good projects in research and development.

I read that particular article myself. I will look at it closely to see whether there is anything in there of which I am not

Oral Questions

aware. I thank the Hon. Member for bringing the matter to my attention.

AMOUNT OF REVENUE LOSS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. On November 28, I asked the Minister of National Revenue whether he would immediately impose a complete moratorium on the grandfather clause which left the door open to abuse of Canadian taxpayers' money. Since the Government has lost ten times more than was originally estimated in the Lalonde Budget on the R & D tax credits, will the Minister close the loophole and table the full revenue loss from the R & D tax credit immediately?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to disagree publicly with the Hon. Member. I think he should be very cautious about taking information that is in a *Globe and Mail* article and translating it immediately into the truth.

I am looking at the matter carefully and if there is any announcement that should be made, I will make it. In the meantime I would caution him that there are a number of small research and development oriented companies that are benefiting from this tax procedure, and it is generating some job creating research and development which is helpful to the country.

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YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

POLICE DIFFICULTIES IN APPLYING PROVISIONS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. The Minister is aware that because of Section 38 of the Young Defenders Act, the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department has been unable to warn the public adequately of the identity of a 17-year old who escaped custody after being charged with armed robbery with a sawed-off shotgun. The Metropolitan Toronto Police Department is most concerned about the danger to the public. Will the Minister agree to meet without delay the chief of police of Metropolitan Toronto, and or with the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, in order to discuss their concern about the Young Offenders Act?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with some of the chiefs of police before. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with them again to discuss this matter.