

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**NATIONAL REVENUE****QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR ABOLITION OF EXCISE TAX ON CIDER**

**Mr. Yvon L'Heureux (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Revenue.

Will the Association of Quebec cider producers soon get a reply from the Minister of National Revenue, with regard to their application for excise tax exemption on champagnes as applied to cider, according to the interpretation given to an act dating back almost half a century?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, following the hon. member's representations I shall be happy to try to give an answer as soon as possible.

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[English]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****HIRING OF NATIVE PEOPLE BY NORTHERN INDUSTRIES—CRITERIA AND PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development arising out of the minister's statement concerning the hiring of natives by northern industries. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to establish specific criteria as a basis for hiring these people, and is he prepared to assess specific financial penalties against companies that do not comply?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, it is not our intention to apply quotas or penalties at the present time. However, I have approached industries with a view to obtaining their co-operation, failing which we may take concrete action according to the criteria I outlined in my speech earlier this week.

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[English]

**HARBOURS****PORTS POLICY—RESOLVING OF PROBLEMS—RESPONSIBILITIES AND MAKE-UP OF PORT AUTHORITIES**

**Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On May 12 in the course of his statement on ports policy the minister indicated that further details would be announced after consultation with local interests. In view of disturbing reports that there is dissatisfaction in at least two of the larger ports, can the minister tell us whether these problems have been resolved, and can he now announce the responsibilities and the make-up of the nine port authorities?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot do the latter, that is, announce the

[Mr. Trudeau.]

make-up of the nine port authorities. I can say, however, that most of the problems have been resolved. I can assure the hon. member that if there are a few Solomons around he might give me their names because it has been very difficult to make some of these necessary decisions. I anticipate that within a few days I shall be able to announce the names of two additions to the National Harbours Board as well as the make-up of the port authorities for Vancouver and Montreal.

**Mr. Thomas (Moncton):** I am happy to hear that the minister will be announcing the names of two new appointees. I am wondering whether one of them will be stationed in the Atlantic area as I requested on May 12.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Neither of the two gentlemen concerned, but the reference I made to Solomon a few moments ago was in precisely that context. It is the intention of the government to locate one member of the National Harbours Board in the Atlantic provinces, but where he will go is the key question, as the hon. member well knows.

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**GRAIN****STABILIZATION BILL—INVITATION TO MINISTER TO MEET WITH WESTERN FARM ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS AMENDMENTS**

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister in charge of the Wheat Board but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister. Is it the intention of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board to accept the invitation extended to him by several farm organizations in western Canada to meet with them to discuss amendments to the prairie grain stabilization bill?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** I will take the question as notice and advise the minister responsible for the Wheat Board.

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Having regard to the telegrams and correspondence now arriving in our offices, and no doubt in his office, running about ten to one against the stabilization plan in its present form—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech. If he has a question he should ask it directly. I again invite hon. members to refrain from reviving during the question period a debate we have been pursuing for some weeks.

**Mr. Skoberg:** I was following along the lines of what the minister did the other day. In view of the invitation extended to the Prime Minister as well from the Wheat Pools and the National Farmers Union to meet with them to discuss certain amendments, would the right hon. gentleman not agree to withdraw this bill until this meeting has taken place?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The policy of the government has been quite clear. I cannot understand how an opposition member would want us to withdraw