

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, now that the minister has repeated his indication that he is considering a deferment of the deadline for the filing of these tax forms, can he tell the Canadian people whether there will in fact be a deferment of the deadline, or does this too have to wait for the budget? Or is the minister really indicating to the House today that he has been thinking about it but in view of the fact that it shatters all precedent he is not in fact prepared to recommend an extension of the deadline?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I think what I said was that it had been requested, but one of the bases for the request was that at that time it was expected there would be some delay in distributing the personalized forms. Actually they went out at about the same time this year as they have in the past.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South on a supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, my question is in the general area but is not supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Then the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary South on a supplementary.

COST OF ADVERTISING RESPECTING 1972 FORM

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Minister of National Revenue. Would the minister indicate to the House the ultimate cost to the taxpayer of the tax advertisement, "It's new and easier than it looks", and what it has cost to date for television, radio and so on?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question could be placed on the order paper. The hon. member for Moose Jaw on a supplementary.

Mr. Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Revenue.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member for Moose Jaw but the hon. member for Calgary North is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, I think that ruling may have been made in a little haste.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Woolliams: Surely hon. members are prepared to hear me out. With the greatest respect, this is a very serious matter. These are difficult forms. We have seen today a misrepresentation of the facts about those forms, as has been the case for weeks. What we are looking for from the government are forthright answers on this subject. I would ask Your Honour to permit the hon. member for Calgary South to rephrase his question so that we can get some answers on this very serious matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Moose Jaw. The hon. member for Calgary South did rise, obviously wanting to ask a supplementary, and he will be given that right in a moment.

REGULATIONS RESPECTING CLAIMS FOR DEPRECIATION BY FARMERS

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that the 1972 farmers' and fishermen's tax guide could create some misunderstanding on the part of farmers with respect to their claiming depreciation, would the minister undertake to inform farmers that they may continue to use Part XVII of the regulations for depreciation of assets acquired prior to December 31, 1971, and that it is only with respect to assets acquired after December 31 that Part XI should be used?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to have that looked into.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON COST OF ADVERTISING RESPECTING 1972 FORM

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Would he be prepared to make a statement on motions as to the cost of running these advertisements across the country?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): That would be rather odd, Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member's own colleagues have quoted a figure in the House. There is no secret about it. It is about in proportion to the amount spent by the governments of Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec on advertising their new tax departures this year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Speaker, will the minister advise the House how Mr. Fred Davis is qualified to advise Canadians on their tax matters?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that this question is not in order. I recognize the hon. member for St. Boniface.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF OFFICE HOURS TO ASSIST TAXPAYERS SEEKING INFORMATION

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Give it to him, Joe.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Sock it to him, Joe.