

I understand that the minister is in the process of communicating with this government to ask for an extension of this experimental project. As soon as the communication is received, we shall give the matter immediate consideration. I sincerely hope that we will be able to give as favourable a response as possible.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the same minister. For the information of the House and Montreal South Shore residents, could he indicate, in connection with the Champlain Bridge file which he is currently reviewing, whether he intends to continue the toll-free policy for the buses of the transport commission in Montreal South Shore which is provided for in an agreement which, I repeat, is to expire within the next few days?

[*English*]

Mr. Howie: Mr. Speaker, the provision regarding tolls results in a loss of revenue of about \$150,000 a year. On the other hand, it results in a very marked increase in convenience for the people who use the service. There is also a very considerable saving with regard to energy conservation. We are currently balancing and giving weight to these factors. I expect to make a decision in the next few days, which I will communicate to the hon. member.

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TOURISM

PROMOTION OF TOURISM BY CANADIAN PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for International Trade who is also responsible for tourism. Since the first contact with Canada and the first impression of Canadian hospitality by the travelling public is often that of staff members of various ministries of the government, what is being done to inform civil servants of the importance of tourism and the major role which they play in assuring that we have repeat visitors from other countries?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, this particular matter came up in October at the conference of federal-provincial tourism ministers and it was identified as being a question of real importance. There is currently under way an interdepartmental review by officials of the particular aspects of this problem as it relates to immigration and customs. That committee originally stated that it would be able to report to me some time around mid-year, but they have since extended the deadline to some time later in the year or into the following year. I instructed them that was not good enough and that I wanted the report sooner, hopefully by mid-year.

Oral Questions

● (1150)

FINANCE

REAPPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BANK OF CANADA

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): My question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of the announcement this morning that governor Bouey and his deputy were being reappointed for another seven years, does this mean that we will have another seven years of tight money, another seven years of high interest rates and another seven years of domination of our economy by the Bank of Canada?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the governor of the Bank of Canada and his deputy were reappointed by the board of directors of the Bank of Canada. We have concurred in their reappointment. That means for another seven years, or however long they choose to fill those offices within that period, we will have a sound central bank, uninterfered with in a political sense by the government.

I cannot answer for what would happen if hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, but we are not going to interfere politically with the Bank of Canada. I think for another seven years we will have sound, sensible monetary policy administered by the Bank of Canada. I would like to congratulate Mr. Bouey and Mr. Lawson on their reappointment and wish them well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROPOSED MOTION UNDER S.O. 25

Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 25, I move, seconded by—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be aware that the Chair has never received motions of any sort during question period. The hon. member for Stormont-Dundas.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Points of order and questions of privilege will be taken into account at twelve o'clock. The hon. member for Stormont-Dundas.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

EXCESS PROFITS OF OIL MULTINATIONALS—STEPS TO PREVENT TRANSFER OUT OF CANADA

Mr. Ed Lumley (Stormont-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Two weeks ago I asked the Minister of National Revenue what steps his depart-