

approaching various requests for support. On the question of the 33 per cent commitment to the Vancouver Centre, that was made by the previous government and we felt that we had to follow through on that commitment. But we did not feel that it was appropriate for us to make that sort of support available at that level on a nationwide basis, and it is on that basis that we chose the figure of 25 per cent.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question was to have been somewhat supplementary to the question put by the hon. member for Beaches, but it stands on its own. It is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Would the minister tell me whether, in the interest of equity, he would be prepared to re-examine the criteria for the distribution of funds through his department in support of voluntary agencies to ensure that those agencies which oppose abortion, like the Pro-Life movement which honours the sanctity of life, will have a more equitable share of those funds rather than having all the funds go to the pro-abortion groups such as Planned Parenthood?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his question and indicate to him and, indeed, to all members of the House that I will take the question as notice and as a representation in terms of the concern which he registers for himself and for those whom he represents. The department is reviewing funding to all voluntary organizations, and I would be happy to take as notice the query from the hon. member.

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FINANCE

TAXING OF OIL MULTINATIONALS

Mr. Ed Lumley (Stormont-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance and it follows his response to my colleague, the hon. member for Outremont.

If I heard the minister correctly, he said that next year Petro-Canada would begin paying taxes. I did not hear the minister say the same thing with regard to a multinational oil company like Shell. How does the minister justify making a company which is owned by all Canadians pay taxes when multinational oil companies are not paying taxes?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to see that the hon. gentleman, who was parliamentary secretary to the minister of finance in the former reincarnation, is now interested in the issue of Shell Oil Company and the oil industry in general paying taxes. I ask

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the hon. member to wait for my budget to see whether or not there is anything new in that direction. As far as PetroCan is concerned, it will not necessarily be owned by all Canadians—just by some Canadians if certain things happen in the future. That policy has not yet been decided. When that time comes, then it should pay taxes just as other Canadian-owned companies should pay taxes.

PROFITS OF MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES

Mr. Ed Lumley (Stormont-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the House leader in his capacity as the Minister of National Revenue. Since the Prime Minister made the unprecedented statement in this House a week or so ago that the government will discuss an excess profits tax with multinational oil companies, has the minister taken any steps to ensure that these multinational oil companies have not started to transfer some of these excess profits out of the country?

● (1500)

Hon. Walter Baker (President of Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman will recall that the Prime Minister indicated he felt it wise to consult as broadly and in perhaps a different way than consultations have taken place before so that the budget-making could be relevant. I frankly support that. I think the hon. member ought to know, from his associations with the former government, the immense capacity of the Department of National Revenue to make inquiries from time to time with respect to the activities of all taxpayers. I want to assure him that the Department of National Revenue would have that matter very much in mind.

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GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES

CIVIL SERVICE RECIPIENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Ray Chénier (Timmins-Chapleau): My question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration who, I understand, is responsible for the administration of government annuities. Thousands of Canadians have invested in government annuities in the hope of having a cushion for financial requirements when they retire.

In view of the fact that the rate of return on annuities was reviewed because of important variations in interest rates under the Government Annuities Improvement Act which was adopted by the previous government, would the minister tell the House whether he plans to raise the rate of interest on annuities to a level higher or close to the level of inflation, to help Canadians who invested in Canada in good faith?

Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me an opportunity to indicate that we have that matter currently