

chance to take root, and the public would begin to believe that their affairs were being managed on the basis of reason and discussion, rather than on one of reflex and polemics.

Of course there are many issues which involve the basic differences of the three parties, and on such Bills, and on all money Bills, votes of confidence must continue to be employed. But even a few free votes, in my opinion, would do wonders to make the system more responsible to the needs and views of our constituents, and would do wonders to restore faith in the integrity of the democratic process.

* * *

● (1410)

CANADA POST CORPORATION

SURCHARGE ON SPECIFIC LETTERS—EFFECT ON TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I want to record my objections and those of tourist operators and small-businessmen in my riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka, as well as in most parts of Canada, to the fact that in so many ways they seem to be the chosen targets of the Government. The specific weapon being used this time is the new postal regulations of our postal corporation. Under these regulations, from April 1 onward a surcharge of 5 cents will be charged on all small-business letters which are non-standard in size or do not use the postal code.

Big business is catered to by providing an incentive rate of 24 cents for mailings of 20,000 or more standard identical pieces, and an even lower rate of 21 cents is charged for 1,000 or more items which are presorted to carrier routes. Perhaps Canada Post would also consider a new rate of, say, 17 cents, providing the customer delivers the mail himself.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Darling: It was explained to us that these new rates are to allow a discount to large mailers who do some of the post offices' work for them, and for enabling their new automatic sorting machinery to be used. Presumably this results in significant cuts in labour costs. This is all very logical, except that it is a bit hard to reconcile with the fact that, according to the best figures I have been able to come up with, since the end of fiscal year 1981 the cost of first-class postage has—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

NATIONAL DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Mr. Michel Veillette (Champlain): Madam Speaker, the situation of the young Canadians who are unemployed and untrained is a major concern of all Hon. Members.

S.O. 21

Unable to find jobs, many young Canadians have asked to join our Armed Forces, which have the necessary facilities to train them. In fact, their number is so large that it exceeds the Department of National Defence's current requirements. The Canadian Armed Forces would have to accept additional applications by the thousands if they were to provide them all with jobs as well as the professional training they require to find jobs on the labour market today.

For quite some time, Hon. Members on the government side have requested that the programs and facilities of the Armed Forces be made available to a greater number of young unemployed Canadians who are in need of training. We know that the Government is giving serious consideration to their request, and we hope that its decision is forthcoming.

* * *

[English]

INCOME TAX

PREPAYMENT OF TAX ON INCOME FROM GOVERNMENT BONDS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, every Member of the House must be aware that many Canadian pensioners hold Canadian Government Bonds on which interest payments are made, sometimes twice but just as often only once during the year. Also they must be aware that these pensioners are nonetheless required to submit quarterly income tax returns and, in consequence, have to pay tax on revenue before that revenue is actually received. This is an iniquitous injustice and an intolerable burden which many pensioners find difficult to bear.

The principle ought to be established once and for all that no taxes can be collected from individual Canadians until the revenue on which those taxes are levied has been received by those individual Canadians. I suggest that the income tax Bill, Bill C-139, which will soon be before us again, should be amended to embody this principle.

* * *

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION AT FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I should like to express my deep concern about the strategies which are currently being developed by the federal Government and some provincial Governments prior to the upcoming First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal rights. We have learned about a leaked Government document which indicates that the Liberal administration intends to "reduce native expectations" and "embroil provincial Governments in the process of discussion".

Such an approach implies that the Government's commitment to an equitable settlement of the aboriginal rights issue is not sincere. This will only strengthen the suspicion of native peoples that the federal Government cannot be trusted.