

schools are provided equally across the country within the ability of the Department to meet identified needs. It would be very comforting if all needs of all Canadians in all instances could be met. It is far beyond the scope of the Canadian taxpayer to provide for all needs of all Canadians in all circumstances.

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INCOME TAX

BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM INDUSTRY—WITHHOLDING OF WAGE TAXES

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. As the Minister is aware, the motion picture industry in British Columbia is quite upset by the recent implementation of tax measures requiring the withholding of taxes on wages and per diems of non-resident actors and support staff. One major film project has already been cancelled, and there are fears that these measures could damage the burgeoning film industry in B.C. Could the Minister advise the House what steps he is taking to deal with this issue so that British Columbia can continue to attract foreign film projects which provide substantial employment and benefits to its economy?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from my colleague who has taken a keen interest in this important subject. As she knows, in an attempt to promote and encourage a viable film industry for the country, I have instructed officials to meet with representatives of the industry. Meetings have already taken place, as they will in other parts of the country. We hope that guidelines can be developed to encourage and facilitate matters, as indeed they have been in respect of R and D guidelines. The issue of withholding and other important matters will be discussed and hopefully ironed out.

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PORTS

STATUS OF PORT OF SAINT-JOHN

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I seek clarification with regard to his announcement granting local ports corporation status to the Port of Saint John. Could the Minister inform the House whether or not the board of directors of Canada Ports Corporation has officially petitioned him and whether or not an Order in Council has already been approved? If so, would he table both the petition and the Order in Council today?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would have to check on those matters, but certainly

the Canada Ports Corporation has requested that the Port of Saint John become a port corporation under the authority of the Act. I am glad to say that the Hon. Member for the district, the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines, made that announcement in Saint John several days ago. It was due to his efforts and work, the time that he put into this, and the ingenious solutions that he found, that we were able to come to that solution.

DEBT OWED BY PORT AUTHORITY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, to the knowledgeable and informed Minister of Transport, I direct my supplementary question. As the Minister will know, pursuant to the Canada Ports Corporation Act the matter of financial self-sufficiency is a major issue. Could he tell the House whether or not the \$30 million which is owed by the Port of Saint John has been written off by the Government of Canada in order for it to live up to the provisions of the Act?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have worked out a debt restructuring scheme, as I recall it, for the Port of Saint John, which certainly puts it in a position to meet all the requirements of the Act. I do not believe, however, that we have written off the large amount about which the Hon. Member spoke, but we have arranged a rescheduling. I will have to get him further details and give them to him.

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IMMIGRATION

ISSUANCE OF REFUGEE PERMITS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration. Regarding the 6,500 permits reportedly issued last year mostly by officials, will the Minister tell the House the breakdown of that figure, that is, how many were refugee claimants, how many had—

Some Hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Hon. Member put his question, please?

Mr. Heap: I am asking if the Minister would give the House the breakdown of that figure, that is, how many were refugee claimants—because I have given him notice of this—how many had—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that if a detailed answer is requested in a question, there is a proper form to place that within the system. I wonder if the Hon. Member, in order to complete his question, would ask a question which is acceptable to the House.