

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

FINANCE**STEPS TO MAINTAIN EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX OF WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS**

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that our war veterans who are entitled to receive war veterans allowance are exempt from income tax but effective April 1 this year they are expected to receive the major portion of their payments as old age security pension and guaranteed income supplement, both of which are taxable, what steps is the minister taking to ensure that our veterans will continue to enjoy the exemption they have so justly merited?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I am considering a recommendation made to me by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Speaker.

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SINGLE AND MARRIED PEOPLE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the concern of the average working person and the proposals put forward by many people, when bringing down his budget will the minister give consideration to increasing the exemptions from income tax for single and married people?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this was a proposal in the white paper we brought forward over a year ago.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION**PROVISION OF NEW OFFICE IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA**

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister inform the House if the Unemployment Insurance Commission is giving consideration to establishing offices in addition to those now available in Nova Scotia, and will one of those new offices be located in Cumberland County?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the re-organization of the Unemployment Insurance Commission will necessitate the opening of about 60 to 65 new offices across Canada, five of which I think, from memory, will be in the province of Nova Scotia. The instruction to the Unemployment Insurance Commission is to establish them in those centres where the maximum good can be done for the public and not to take into consideration political partisanship in the least.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Pelletier.]

FINANCE**USE OF PORTION OF REVENUE FROM ALCOHOL TO COMBAT ALCOHOLISM**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Having in mind the action taken recently by two provincial governments, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, is any consideration being given at the federal level to earmarking a specific portion of the tremendous revenue received from the sale of alcohol to be used to combat alcoholism and promote temperance in the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member's question is very general in scope and that it is the kind of question which normally ought to be placed on the order paper or it could be discussed at the time of adjournment or considered as a representation to the minister.

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EDUCATION**FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COURSES**

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In light of the importance of business and managerial skill to the independent and technological development of the country, is the government, by way of the Gray report or otherwise, going to take a position on federal assistance and encouragement for business administration programs or courses in the universities and in industry?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, we now pay half the operating costs of all higher education in Canada.

Mr. McCutcheon: Accepting the fact that education is a provincial responsibility, will the government meet with the provinces and industry with a view to improving the number and quality of business administration courses?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, it is the aim of the Canadian government, of course, to increase the efficiency of business enterprise. I am sure that my colleagues who are more concerned with these matters do try to support, in one way or another, the schools of business administration. I am sure my hon. friend would agree that one of the best ways we can do this is by continuing the policy we have now of paying half the cost of such schools.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION**OPENING OF NEW OFFICES—STAFF REDUCTIONS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question has now changed to a supplement