

Petroleum Incentives Program Act

EVALUATION OF CEIC NEWSLETTER

Question No. 4,154—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

Was a study evaluating the readership of a departmental employee newsletter commissioned by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and, if so (a) what is its status (b) what conclusions or recommendations were made (c) how were the conclusions or recommendations followed?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Yes. Approximately 4,000 employees across the country received a survey questionnaire from an independent research firm. The completed questionnaires are now being returned and we expect all answers to be in the hands of the research firm by April 9, 1982. Several weeks later the company will provide us with their conclusions or recommendations and we will look into ways of responding to these recommendations.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Question No. 4,176—**Mr. Herbert:**

With reference to the answer to question No. 3,720, what is the percentage excluding the National Capital Region?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): It is 2.2 per cent.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Monday, April 19, 1982, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-104, respecting petroleum incentives and Canadian ownership and control determination and to amend the Foreign Investment Review Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Energy Legislation.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to enter into debate on this bill, which basically is legislation designed to bring into effect the federal government's petroleum incentives program.

Members of Parliament come to this House from varied occupations and professions, and there is a strength in that diversity. As elected representatives we serve the Canadians who sent us to this House. We also have an opportunity to serve the professions and the occupations at which we once earned a living. This is one of those opportunities when I as a Member of Parliament have an opportunity to serve my former

profession in Parliament. For that reason I intend to be as non-partisan in my remarks as possible.

I also beg the indulgence of the House to outline the background which lies behind my concerns with respect to this legislation.

Twenty-five years ago I entered upon the study of chartered accountancy as a chartered accountant student with my father's firm in Toronto, Horace G. Lewis and Company. I graduated as a chartered accountant in September, 1962. Although I have not practised regularly, I am still a member in good standing of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

There are five hon. members in this House who are members of the accounting profession. They are the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke), the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Thomson) and myself on this side. On the government side there is the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Demers) and the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Desmarais). All of us are proud to be members of the accounting profession.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Canada was formed in 1902. It was first named the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants. There were six provincial institutes at that time, the earliest being the Ontario and Quebec institutes of chartered accountancy formed in 1879. The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has been responsible for setting accounting standards since 1946.

With that background in mind I wish to address two issues with respect to this bill. The first is the generally accepted accounting principles which are applicable to the treatment of payments under the petroleum incentives program. The second is the position of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the repercussions if that position is ignored.

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has an active program of ongoing accounting research which is supported by members of the accounting profession from across Canada. In September 1975, the institute enacted Section 3800 of the CICA handbook to account for direct payments of all types of government assistance. That section was produced as a result of a rigorous discussion and debate of all possible alternatives by members of the CICA accounting research committee, consultation with their associates, exposure of proposed standards to the accounting profession and the business community for comment and consideration of all comments received before the standard was formally issued. Because of concerns as to the proper accounting treatment of the PIP grants, formally known as the Petroleum Incentives Program incentives, the CICA initiated discussions in early 1981 with the oil industry, individual companies, their auditors, and representatives of the federal government.