

INCOME TAX

REASON FOR NOT PROCEEDING WITH PLANS TO CO-OPERATE WITH UNITED STATES TO PREVENT TAX EVASION BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. On June 12, 1973, the minister's predecessor announced in a speech to the Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrators that the government was launching a campaign to crack down on multinationals evading taxes. On November 19, 1975, the current minister announced the formation of a joint U.S.-Canada committee to study the same question. On February 23, 1976, the minister's department announced that because of spending restraints, all such plans had been shelved. While a penny saved may be a penny earned, in this case, does the minister feel that the savings in wages and salaries outweigh the loss of foregone corporate taxes?

● (1140)

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, within a month after my appointment to this portfolio, I met with Don Alexander, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service in the United States. We set up a committee to look into how we might act under the Canada-United States tax treaty to get at multinationals and transnationals which are using the tax haven to avoid taxes. Mr. Alexander will be back here following the report of that committee. We will be meeting again. I, like every other minister, would like to have all the resources necessary. Personally, I do not think it is a waste of money. I think it is an investment to get back the hundreds of millions of dollars. To me, a tax haven is anathema. Within the scope that we have, both the resources, financial and man-years, we will do our best to plug these particular abuses.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, there is no question of a tax haven. It is a question of transfer of income from the Canadian tax collector to the United States tax collector. Is the minister so naive as to believe that the government of the United States is going to help us reduce their tax collection in favour of Canada?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I am not so naive as to think we are going to get any co-operation by the use of this anti-American nonsense we hear from time to time. We are trying to work together in the best interests of taxpayers of both countries.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

POSSIBILITY OF APOLOGY TO THÉRIEN FAMILY FOR ERRONEOUS RAID

Mr. Denis Ethier (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General.

After a raid in a Hawkesbury home on February 19, 1976, at 4.20 in the morning, even though the RCMP had

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been misinformed by the local police, can the minister tell the House if he will personally apologize on behalf of the RCMP to the members of Mr. Georges Thérien's family who, beyond all question, have been deeply humiliated, and particularly for the messy condition in which their home was left, as he will find out when he reads the report.

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has pointed out, the RCMP took this action on the advice of the local police. As he said, it was unfortunate that the wrong address had been given. I will bring this matter to the attention of the RCMP and see that a proper apology is made to the people involved.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS—AGREEMENT TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO ENVIRONMENT BY NUCLEAR WASTE

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister assure the House that when Canada sells a nuclear reactor abroad, there is inherent with the sale a moral obligation to assure that nuclear wastes from that same reactor will not harm the international physical environment?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are arrangements within the nuclear co-operation agreements covering the security of the plant and the waste factor involved. There are provisions for continuing consultations to overcome such difficulties.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DISPOSAL AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE—MEASURES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment. Has the minister been consulted regarding the safeguards for disposal and storage of nuclear waste as it relates to the protection of the Canadian environment? Does his department have the technical capacity and expertise to adequately advise the government with regard to the return and reprocessing of nuclear waste from reactors sold abroad?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, in that field, we advise Energy, Mines and Resources and the provincial governments. That is all we do. We see that they respect the standards of the government.