

Let me say to the minister, by the way, that if he has better figures, let him present them to the House.

In relation to the interdepartmental committee that has been established to look at the question of the north and whether this government is going to end the remission order, will the Minister of National Revenue or his colleague, the Minister of State for Mines, tell the House whether the government is—

Mr. Chénier: A good speech, Joe.

Mr. Clark: The hon. member for Timmins interrupts again, Madam Speaker. Perhaps he would like to speak for his constituents instead of blindly defending—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order. This is going to turn into a shouting match if I do not stop it. I would appreciate it if the hon. Leader of the Opposition would ask his question.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I have two questions for the Minister of National Revenue. First, will he give us a guarantee now that there will not be an end to the remission order in January 1983 and, second, will he tell us whether the interdepartmental committee looking at impacts in northern Canada is considering substituting the payment of a \$500 cheque that will be taxable, to the miners affected, while at the same time they have an increase in their taxes ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year? Will the minister tell us whether the government is considering slapping a \$3,000 tax increase on miners in his constituency and then compensating for that with a \$500 cheque that will itself be taxable?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, as far as obfuscation of figures is concerned, Madam Speaker, last week the Leader of the Opposition told us that the taxation of health and dental plans would have heavy impact on veterans. That is clearly false; there is no impact on veterans who receive a disability allowance or the war veterans allowance. There is no effect at all.

Mr. Clark: That is not true.

Mr. Rompkey: The figures and positions that the Leader of the Opposition brought forward last week were clearly not credible. I submit that the figures brought forward this week are equally not credible.

The fact of the matter is—and people in the north know it—that this government has kept faith with them. We continued the remission order and they are money in pocket. The average person in my riding picked up between \$1,000 and \$1,500 extra this year as a result of the remission order. We have said that we will continue to keep faith with people in the north and that we will put a program in place that will see that they get their due. We intend to do that, Madam Speaker.

Oral Questions

TAXATION OF NORTHERN RESIDENTS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I should like to continue with a question directed to the Minister of National Revenue. He knows full well that it is the policy of the Liberal government to discontinue the remission order. That was said by the Minister of Finance—

Mr. Chénier: Joe told us that!

Mr. Nickerson: The people of Labrador City will lose \$1,000 to \$1,500. I submit that this is frightening and will have a horrendous impact on the taxpayers of northern Canada. Will the Minister of National Revenue guarantee to us today that the remission order will not be taken off at the end of this year or, alternatively, will permanent changes to the Income Tax Act be made to take into consideration the fact that people in the north are paying, in proportion, more taxes than those in the south?

• (1425)

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the government has nothing to be ashamed of in terms of its approach to people in the north.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rompkey: If they want to take examples from my riding, the first thing that their government did when it assumed power was that it immediately froze capital projects, including two capital projects in Labrador City, denying the people up there jobs. That is the record of that particular government, in Labrador City. I would say to the hon. member that he knows very well my own personal feeling about the remission order and what should be done for people in the north.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rompkey: I simply say to him again that the government has kept faith with the people of the north, and it will continue to do that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

QUERY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, for the second time the Minister of National Revenue has refused to answer that very simple question put to him. In reviewing the budget I saw that there would be more money put into the pockets of deputy ministers and of chairmen of Crown corporations. These people will be receiving an additional \$6,000, \$8,000 or \$10,000 to spend per year—

Mr. Nielsen: After taxes.

Mr. Nickerson: —but the guy who drives an ore truck in Labrador City, Schefferville, Pine Point or Faro will be paying an extra \$2,000 or \$3,000 per year—

Madam Speaker: Order, order.