

receive the offers and it is up to Dome to decide whether it wants to make them public.

TAX REMISSION ORDER'S EFFECT

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who in February, 1985, made a tax remission order enabling Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas to deduct over 10 years the costs incurred by Dome to acquire it. Since the order failed to restrict the benefit to the then owner, Dome, will the Minister tell the House if his omission will result in a foreign buyer having a tax holiday until 1995?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member might put the question to her own side of the House because it was the Liberal Government which initiated that remission order in 1984. I am not precisely sure of the facts concerning the question the Hon. Member just put at this point because we are still in the early stages of the discussions on this.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have to take the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition through a few simple facts about tax matters.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): He was a Minister of Finance. There is a difference between a tax ruling, which is provided by the Minister of National Revenue, and a tax concession, which is something that the Minister of Finance gives, and a remission order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: John, remember this now.

Mr. Gauthier: That is what she is talking about.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): A remission order about which his colleague talks could be provided by the Minister of Finance, by the Minister of National Revenue or by another Minister.

Mr. Gauthier: Who sets the conditions?

Mr. Axworthy: That is how you define "sell-out" isn't it?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If I could go back to the question, my answer to the question is that I do not think that it will have the effect of passing through an acquisition, but we are not entirely sure at this point until we get more detail.

REQUEST THAT CONDITIONS BE ATTACHED TO TAX BREAK

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, the previous Government may have made the commitment to Dome but the Minister decided the terms of the order and signed it.

Oral Questions

Mr. Gauthier: That is right.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): The Auditor General has estimated that the Dome remission order would cost Canadian taxpayers \$1 billion. In view of the sale of Dome, does the Minister plan to put some conditions around this tax break?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member wrote that question before she heard my answer.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I said that we think that the effects of the remission order will not pass through to any new buyer. However, I want to be sure of that and we will find that out from detailed discussions with the new buyer, be it Amoco or some other company, at the time we have those details.

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[Translation]

TAX REFORM

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE END OF JUNE

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance and relates to the proposed comprehensive tax reform concerning personal and corporate taxation as well as the sales tax, a reform which the Minister promised to unveil in the spring of 1987. Recently we have had all kinds of indications that Cabinet is split about the Minister's tax reform project. Is the Government still committed to propose a comprehensive tax reform, and will the project be made public before the end of June?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

MINISTER'S POSITION ON TAX REFORM

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister be rather more specific?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1450)

Mr. Cassidy: Are the Minister and the Government still holding to their promise to bring forth comprehensive tax reform in the area of personal taxation, corporate taxation, and the proposed business transfer tax? Or is the Minister now abandoning that particular proposal because of opposition within the Cabinet; and will he, therefore, be perpetuating the unfair tax system that we have in Canada today?

An Hon. Member: Yes, no, and maybe.