

INCOME TAX

INFORMATION DEMANDED ON TAX RETURN FORMS

Hon. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. The House will recall that last spring when the income tax forms came out, I raised a question about the additional information sought on that form for the first time. Has the Government studied the issue? Is it prepared to take any decision soon, because the new form will go to the printers soon?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, further to representations made by the Hon. Member, we have indeed made a careful study of the information concerning the manner in which individuals are identified on their tax returns. We subsequently decided to cut the number of data used to identify the individual. For instance, the indexed income for the last three years which appeared on the tax return and was a matter of concern to the Hon. Member, will not appear on next year's return. In addition, we had two numbers to identify the same individual, in addition to the spouse's number. The individual's social insurance number and the spouse's number will be retained, but the third number we added will be removed.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND REPRESENTATIVE TO CABINET

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Of course he is aware that there is a convention that each Province be represented in the federal Cabinet. It is now almost three and a half weeks since the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's resigned. Does the Prime Minister intend to appoint a Newfoundland representative to his Cabinet? If so, when? If not, will he at least appoint a Parliamentary Secretary so that there will be somebody over there with some official responsibility?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there has been a tradition of as wide as possible geographic representation. I have that in mind and I am considering how I will exercise my privilege. There is no convention or duty to inform the House how the Prime Minister's prerogative will be exercised. I will do that in due course.

INQUIRY RESPECTING PRIME MINISTER'S INTENTIONS

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister intend to appoint a Newfoundland Member of Parliament to his Cabinet so that that Province, at

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a very critical time in its history, will be represented in the Government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Hon. Member's interest. I know he himself is not personally interested in the job, nor I in him.

Mr. McGrath: I am prepared to wait.

Mr. Trudeau: He says that he is prepared to consider it—

Mr. McGrath: I said that I was prepared to wait.

Mr. Trudeau: If he is prepared to wait, what is the urgency of the question?

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AGRICULTURE

FATE OF AGRI-BOND PROPOSAL

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Why was the Minister of Agriculture turned down by the Minister of Finance when he asked if he could enter the bond market for additional FCC funds?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance did not turn me down.

FUNDING FOR FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Agriculture was not turned down, was he ignored? If that extra money is not forthcoming, does the Minister believe the Farm Credit Corporation has sufficient funds to enable farmers to carry on their business?

● (1150)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I take it for granted, from all of the questions that are in support of the Farm Credit Corporation, that the Conservative Party has changed its view toward Crown corporations and that its Members want it to be a big Crown corporation. It is a very big one already and they would like the Farm Credit Corporation to be even bigger.

Again I say that the Minister of Finance has given more money and more authorization to the Minister of Agriculture to give to the Farm Credit Corporation than ever in the history of the country. The Hon. Member asked if I was turned down. We have \$250 million—

Mr. Epp: You asked for \$600 million.

Mr. Whelan: We asked for more than that, but I would like to ask the Hon. Member if he gets everything that he asks for. I am sure that no one in this society gets everything he asks for.