

PENSIONS

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER TO CONDUCT INQUIRY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In light of the fact that on March 11 he stated in the House that he would be making significant moves in the direction of appointing a commissioner to go into all aspects of railway pensions, may I ask the minister what is the current status of his position on this matter?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The matter is under active consideration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McKenzie: Having regard to the grave and serious concern expressed by all parties in the House, will the minister immediately introduce a government bill to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act to remove the CNR from the scope of that act in order that, without adding substantially to its annual deficit, it may improve its pension plan, noting that private member's Bill C-139, introduced by the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply to the hon. member's question, without the hon. member's additional notice.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is referring to a private member's bill introduced by a member of this party, the hon. member for St. Boniface, who has been championing the cause of the railway workers for many years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): The concept that is embraced in that private member's bill is under very active consideration with respect to measures the government can take to rectify the situation dealing with the pensions of railway workers. I have this matter under discussion with my colleague, the Minister of Transport. We hope to come up with a solution very shortly.

Mr. McKenzie: Would the minister not agree that a government bill would carry far more weight than a private member's bill, and would be—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is of course, argument. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport rises on a question of privilege. I will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Centre in a moment.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I would like to ask through you, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre would agree that we do the same with this bill?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

Oral Questions
INCOME TAX

PURCHASE OF T4 SLIPS AT DISCOUNTS—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO CONTROL

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise the House whether legislation is proposed to curb the so-called income tax service firms that are buying T4 slips at fabulous discounts? These loan sharks are operating and preying on people who can ill afford—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply to the question without the argument which the hon. member wished to add to it.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am consulting with my colleagues, the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of Justice, about this question. I appreciate the hon. member bringing this point once again to our attention.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING HIRING OF TEMPORARY STAFF

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Has his department made a decision to cease using private placement agencies for acquiring casual help in the Public Service here in Ottawa and, if no decision has been made, when can we expect a decision?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the use of private placement agencies is something done not by the Treasury Board but by departments to fulfil urgent, unforeseen needs. As long as there are no abuses from the taxpayers' and the government's point of view, the practice probably will continue.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration if his department is considering taking over this operation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe I replied to the same question a few days ago by saying that while we are looking at it we are not now authorized to operate an overload system. We will explore and are in fact exploring this question with other departments of government.

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● (1520)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES STANDING IN NAME OF PERSON WHOSE SOCIAL INSURANCE CARD STOLEN

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Inasmuch as the