

INCOME TAX

Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the third petition contains 753 names to add to the tens of thousands of names I have tabled over the last few weeks.

It asks Parliament to reduce government spending, not to increase taxes, and to implement a taxpayer protection act in order to ensure that future tax increases will not afflict the Canadian public.

LIGHTHOUSES

Mr. John Cummins (Delta, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have one petition to present today and it says in part that the Minister of Transport has directed the Canadian coast guard to proceed with detailed plans for a program of unmanning all west coast light stations. The savings to the coast guard will be insignificant and the impact on the users of these services will be considerable due to the loss of local weather services, assistance in search and rescue and the manned presence on this remote rugged coastline.

Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call on Parliament to revoke this directive immediately and request a complete and thorough public inquiry in the province of B.C. into the need for the manned light stations on the west coast.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[English]

Mrs. Elsie Wayne (Saint John, PC): Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order pursuant to Standing Order 39.

I placed a question on the Order Paper on October 4, 1994. That was 179 days ago. I am seeking information on financial assistance provided to each federal riding in Atlantic Canada by ACOA.

It is my understanding that the government tries to answer all Order Paper questions within the 45-day period. However 179 days is an unacceptable length of time to respond to my question. It indicates either an inability or an unwillingness to answer.

Would the hon. member please advise me when I will receive an answer to the question I asked over five months ago?

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I know the question concerns the total amount of financial assistance provided by ACOA for each federal riding from November 4, 1993 to date.

Government Orders

I know the Minister of Supply and Services has been working diligently on preparing an answer to the hon. member's question. I understand that if the answer is not yet ready it is close to being ready and that I will be in a position to answer the hon. member soon.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I ask that the notice of motion for the production of papers stand.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT,
1995

Hon. Raymond Chan (for Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.) moved that Bill C-69, an act to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions and the readjustment of electoral boundaries, be read the third time and passed.

Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Secretary of State (Training and Youth), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in the House today to speak to Bill C-69, an act to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions and the readjustment of electoral boundaries.

● (1525)

I greet this bill from a different perspective than has been presented to the House before. I would like to speak specifically to clause 30(a) which directly impacts on my riding of Western Arctic.

Once this legislation is enacted, four more communities will be added to my riding. The population of my riding will increase by over 1,700 people. The land mass will be increased by approximately 200,000 square kilometres. The increase in land to the Western Arctic is larger than many of the ridings in Canada. This makes my riding the second largest in terms of land mass.

It is a riding with very few roads. As a matter of fact, 90 per cent of my riding is not accessible by road. In the summer people can commute by boat along the Mackenzie River, but in the long winter the only forms of travel are by plane or on a sometimes rather treacherous winter road in very inclement conditions.