

to be exceeded and how successfully the government has been in cutting off the fat and frills on the existing estimates this year?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): I will consider the suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

SUGGESTED RELIEF FROM PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO RETURN TAX MONEY IN VIEW OF POSTAL STRIKE

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Will the minister now assure the House that he will honour the principle of the Postal Services Interruption Relief Act and grant relief to all citizens of Canada who are under a statutory deadline to make returns of money or records to him under the taxing statutes, for example income tax, federal sales tax, unemployment insurance, etc., so that these citizens will not have to apply individually to a judge of the federal court for repeal in order to avoid undeserved fines and penalties.

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his representation. It is a route which we intend to take.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF OIL EXPORT TAX IN VIEW OF POSTAL STRIKE

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Would he accept the spirit of the law just mentioned by the hon. member for Lethbridge as it has come to my attention that people are having to travel from Calgary to bring their export tax to his office in Ottawa. That seems a waste of energy. Perhaps arrangements could be made to have this tax paid at the bank in Calgary or to the Department of National Revenue there rather than adding this wasted transport cost?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to look into that suggestion.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN BUSINESSMEN IN OBTAINING CONTRACTS—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In July of this year the report of the task force formed to study problems encountered by northern businessmen in obtaining federal contracts was published. The report contained some 29 recommendations. Can the minis-

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ter advise whether his department has taken steps to implement these recommendations and would he advise whether he is prepared to refer this report to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I believe there are 42 recommendations and subrecommendations involved in this. We have already taken action to implement ten. Five were not acceptable and we are still pursuing the rest which have involvement with other departments, agencies, and the territorial governments. I will have to take under consideration the question of referring the report to the committee.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

ELIGIBILITY OF DISABILITY PENSIONERS FOR HIGHER WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—SUGGESTED NOTIFICATION OF PENSIONERS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. As a result of the increases in war veterans allowances there is a widening disparity between them and the disability pensions of around 75 per cent. Would the minister advise the House if the pension commission or the War Veterans Allowance Board have been told to notify all those receiving disability pensions of less than 75 per cent and no other income that they could qualify for increased aid under War Veterans Allowances?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I feel that this information has been conveyed already by various means, especially the efforts of the Legion. They have undertaken to notify all veterans what is available to them.

Mr. Marshall: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that I think the minister is wrong and the information is not readily available to everybody, would he direct the pension commission when sending out their cheques to notify anybody who is receiving less than the rate that they can qualify for a higher rate? This should be done immediately.

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, we will be glad to do this.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA

ESTEY REPORT—POSSIBILITY OF PREJUDICE TO COMPANY BY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Concerning the Estey report and the suggestion to put some of its recommendations into effect immediately, even if the translation of the report is not completed, will the Minister of Transport assure the House that he will see to it that the principle embodied in the Official Languages