

Message from the Senate

● (1500)

PAYOUT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Can the Minister assure the House that the Government has not moved in the direction of changing the basic proposal which it talked about some time ago, the Pepin proposal, and made a change in favour of paying all the money which would be paid out, to the railways, and not splitting the payment half to the farmers and half to the railways?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I cannot say that we have not, because the final decision has not been made yet. At the same time my hon. friend, who is a democrat, as I am, cannot fail to witness the fact that both in the West and in the East there has been a movement, and a number of representations made to that effect. I may not think that this is justified. I may very well think that what I announced on February 1 was a superior program, but I cannot, as a democrat, simply ignore the fact that there have been strong protests against that part of the announcement which I made on February 1.

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INCOME TAX

AUDITING OF FARMERS' INCOME—ASSESSMENT OF BACK TAXES

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, yesterday in Question Period the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Bussières) challenged me to present him with some legitimate cases of farmers who are having problems with Section 31 of the Income Tax Act. I have here 30 of the more urgent cases from my riding.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

PETITION

MR. OGLE—CLOSURE OF NATIONAL FILM BOARD OFFICES

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Petition presented by the Hon. Member for Saskatoon-East (Mr. Ogle) on Tuesday, April 26, 1983, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-142, an Act to

amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, without amendment.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH)—QUESTION DIRECTED TO MR. DE BANÉ

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, you will remember that during the Question Period I rose to address a question to the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané). In his absence, however, the reply was given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen). Subsequently the Minister came into the Chamber at about ten minutes to the hour. This is not the first time, Madam Speaker, I have withheld, hoping that the Minister would show up. This time I asked the question and it was replied to rather unsatisfactorily by the Secretary of State for External Affairs—

Madam Speaker: Order, order. If the Hon. Member is complaining about a Minister not being in the House, I must tell him that that is not a point of order.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Well, I just—

Madam Speaker: Well, it took quite a long time. I gathered from the Hon. Member's intervention that he was complaining because of the absence of a Minister. If it is something else he should come to the point very quickly.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My further comment, Madam Speaker, was that I would hope the Minister would give me a reply to the questions I raised in writing.

Madam Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, may I say to the Hon. Member that there is a limit to how fast I can move. I left this City this morning for Toronto. I managed to be back before the end of Question Period.

Mr. Pinard: He should have waited.

Mr. De Bané: Surely, the Hon. Member could have waited. Surely he should not have to ask for permission of the Speaker—

Mr. Lewis: Point of order.

Mr. De Bané: —to write me a letter or to phone me—

Madam Speaker: Order, order.