

GOVERNMENT REVENUES

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance.

The government certainly knows that there is widespread public opposition to increased taxation. People do not mind paying taxes, but they are concerned about tax dollars disappearing into the spending machine of the government.

In light of these concerns, has the government considered establishing a deficit and debt retirement fund to which any excess revenues would be applied?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, since 1984, the government has followed a very clear policy of deficit reduction and expenditure control. We have been very successful transforming a \$16 billion operating deficit into a \$10 billion surplus. What a performance.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Loiselle: We are looking at all the possible options, including that one. When the minister, my colleague, is here and comes forward with his budget, the hon. member will see what our decisions are.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, my question is again directed to this minister.

Is the government prepared to introduce changes to the Income Tax Act, similar to section 110.1, to allow gifts to the Crown which can be applied directly to the deficit or the debt? Or else, second, is it prepared to introduce changes to the Financial Administration Act which will help ensure revenues go to reducing the deficit and not for further spending?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think that we would, of course, want to apply any additional income from our taxation system to deficit reduction. The particular suggestion made by the hon. member will be looked at and I thank her for her suggestion.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

FOREST RESOURCES

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Forestry. Quebec Forestry Minister Albert Côté has inferred several times that the federal Forestry minister was trying to interfere with Quebec's provincial jurisdiction over forest resources.

My question is this: Could the minister give the House the assurance that the agreement proposed by the federal government to Quebec on August 24 respects the areas of jurisdiction of each government in this country?

Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my colleague the assurance that the federal government's proposal is aimed first and foremost at co-operation and partnership with all members of the industry, starting with the Government of Quebec.

We have always recognized Quebec's responsibility for proposing and maintaining regular forestry programs. With our next series of agreements, Mr. Speaker, we want, above all, to establish an effective partnership in order to accelerate the process of forest development in Quebec, especially in private woodlands.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Yesterday, he tabled the Public Service 2000 white paper. In his press conference, the minister demurred when asked which committee of the House he will be referring the white paper to. He declined to give any further details.

Will the minister now advise the House which committee he will be referring PS 2000 to, and when we can expect this to happen?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I will do