

Oral Questions

● (1420)

Since these refunds flow from the October, 1981, budget of the departed Minister of Finance, how can the Minister account for the fact that the 1981 income tax refunds have gone out if the refunds we are talking about now are based on the same budget, the same Bill? How can he account for the fact that all those 1981 refunds went out and we still have not got the 1982 refunds started?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussi eres (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is disregarding the fact that the tax returns for this year are consistent with the provisions of Bill C-139 which is now before the House, and therefore make it possible for many taxpayers to claim significant tax refunds. It is in accordance with past practices that we are waiting for the House to approve this bill before issuing any cheque.

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[English]

INDUSTRY**LAKE DIEFENBAKER WATER PIPELINE PROJECT—OFFER BY
IPSCO STEEL PLANT**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I am sure he is aware that late last week the Saskatchewan steel plant, Ipsco, announced that it would be closing down totally for an indefinite period of time, throwing nearly 1,200 people out of work. I am sure he is also aware it has offered to put up the steel at cost for the \$100 million Lake Diefenbaker pipeline. My question is twofold. First, has the federal Government received a formal request from the Government of Saskatchewan for a contribution to the Lake Diefenbaker pipeline? Second, while he is on his feet, can he inform the House whether or not the Government has decided to contribute some money for the project and, if so, what amount?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I cannot say. I will have to see if that request was received by the Government, and how it will be handled. But I am happy to see that the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville is now coming over to the utility of building steel out there. I remember when we agreed on this side to the pre-build in order to permit that plant to get into operation, the Hon. Member and his Party combated it tooth and nail. Now he is seeing the error of his ways a little. It is too bad it is so late.

Mr. Nystrom: Perhaps the Prime Minister would explain to the House what happened to that pipeline in the end, Madam Speaker?

POSSIBLE IPSCO BID ON BOX CAR CONTRACT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, in terms of supporting western industry I will shift my question

to the Minister of Transport and perhaps I will get an answer from him. He will recall that during the 1980 election campaign his Party promised to aid the creation of industry in our part of the country. He might also be aware that Ipsco has announced it will be bidding on the construction of boxcars for the first time. Could the Minister now put the Government's money where its mouth was in 1980, and make a commitment to use funds from the Western Development Fund to help Ipsco make a bid which will be competitive with bids from companies here in eastern Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I wrote recently on that subject and made sure that Ipsco would be allowed to compete for the steel going into the boxcars, so that is done. If the Company wants to benefit from the \$75 million of economic development, as it knows, this program is administered by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and it is really accessible to all companies in the West. Hopefully, they will get in line and present worthwhile proposals.

**FUNDING OF PROPOSED PIPELINE FROM MAINLAND TO
VANCOUVER ISLAND**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will also be aware that there are unemployed Ipsco workers in Port Moody, British Columbia, partly as a result of the fact that the whole Alaska Highway Pipeline did not go ahead. He might also know that he has received a request from the Government of British Columbia for money to build a pipeline to Vancouver Island. Would the Prime Minister agree with me that the domestic market might best be served before the needs of the export market, and would he be prepared to give a commitment now on the federal Government helping with funding of the pipeline to Vancouver Island so jobs could be provided for Ipsco workers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the question is somewhat vague. I am not sure if the Hon. Member is suggesting that we take an equity position in that pipeline, or just hand the money to the Province. He is shaking his head—hand the money to the Province, Madam Speaker. Well, I believe his home Province has some responsibility for unemployment.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**PROJECTED INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MANAGERS**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. I was wondering if the Minister can advise this House why, this year, the Government needs 78.3 per cent more managers in its top 11 Department to handle things than it had a year ago.