

[English]

**CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

RELEASE OF TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Communications, I will address my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. I understand the Government pays the bills for the CRTC and not the press. Would the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications explain to this House why a CRTC task force report was released last Monday to the press, and the report to the Members of this House was delivered yesterday afternoon?

Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): I thank the Hon. Member for his question, on behalf of the Minister of Communications, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member should know that when the policy concerning remote areas was announced last December 20, the Minister of Communications asked for the collaboration of the CRTC, which reacted immediately by setting up its own task force. That task force, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Klingle, has reported to the CRTC. We are awaiting the reaction of the Commission to the recommendations, and once the Government has assessed recommendations of the task force the Minister will be getting back to the Hon. Member and to the House.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

TREATMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Yesterday two Members on the government side suggested that the private homes of senior citizens which have been bought and paid for should be taken into account when determining pension income, and that the imputed rental savings should be calculated when determining GIS payments. Would the Minister of National Health and Welfare advise the House whether in fact these two Members were reflecting government policy, or whether they were just reflecting the right-wing views in the Conservative caucus?

Mr. Broadbent: Or both.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Whichever comes first.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs has been meeting on the consultation paper. We had another meeting this morning, and I have indicated to the Committee, as we have done before, that we are interested in the broad views not only of committee members but of Canadians generally.

I think it is important for all of us in this House to recognize that individual Members of Parliament can have views and

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they can express them. That has always been part of parliamentary form. As to the position of the Government and the position it will take on the consultation, that is quite another matter.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the Minister repudiate the views of these two Members expressed yesterday, and assure this House and the seniors in our country that it is not the intention of the Government to implement any kind of despicable policy such as was enunciated by them yesterday?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Hon. Member that that is not our policy. The Hon. Member used that word, and it should be clearly established that it is not government policy. He should remember, and I am sure he does, that in previous times when the Liberals were musing about that kind of imputed rent, it was our Party that opposed it. We oppose it. If the Hon. Member had been in committee this morning, the Hon. Member would also know—

Mr. Rodriguez: That has changed.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): —that I gave to the committee examples of costs, for instance, for Canadians over the age of 65, of rent and home ownership. We had a good exchange on that matter. If the Hon. Member goes back to the record of the committee today, many of his questions might be answered.

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GOVERNMENT BONDS

MARKETING SYSTEM

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Commission fees for marketable Government of Canada bonds were recently lowered creating an annual saving, I understand, of about \$10 million. Would the Minister comment on the merits of the system used in the United States whereby the U.S. Treasury sells all its debt through the auction technique, and thereby eliminates commissions altogether?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to confirm that, about a month or six weeks ago, the Government did reduce the commission rates for government bond issues. It will amount to a savings in the order of \$10 million, or about 15 per cent of the total cost of commissions on government bond financing.

With regard to the Hon. Member's question on moving totally to an auction format or a non-commission format, I can tell him that we have taken steps to move toward an auction format. There will be an auction this month, the month of