

● (1152)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRANSPORT

INCREASE IN TOLLS ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—EFFECT ON NIAGARA PENINSULA

Mr. S. Victor Railton (Welland): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport or the acting Minister of Transport. At a recent meeting between members of parliament of the Niagara Peninsula and the Regional Council of Niagara Chambers of Commerce dire prophecies were made that the peninsula economy would suffer disastrously if tolls on the seaway, particularly the Welland Canal, were raised at the end of this year and that this would cause a great reduction in canal traffic and diversion of freight to other modes of transport. I do not share this opinion, but I would like to ask the minister if he would make a statement which would justify the raising of tolls and doubling them on the Welland Canal, a statement which would reassure the people of our constituencies that no economic hardship will result from this action.

[Translation]

Mr. Charles Lapointe (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on August 4 last, the Minister of Transport announced this raise in tariff for the seaway but of course we are prepared to listen to the hon. member's representations, and I shall personally put to the minister's attention this important matter which has been raised this morning by my hon. colleague.

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[English]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF \$100 MILLION EMPLOYMENT CREDIT PROGRAM

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, and it deals with the minibudget of last night which has been received by the outside market with a 5 point drop on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Would the minister be willing to elaborate a little more fully on the \$100 million employment credit program to which he referred last night? Specifically, what has he in mind to put in place with respect to that type of employment credit, and when will it be felt, in view of the high unemployment we are now experiencing?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I hope to be able to make final decisions regarding that bill during the next few weeks. We hope to be able to introduce it in the House before the end of this year so that it may be enacted in early 1978. The hon. member will at that time obtain the answers to his questions.

Oral Questions

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO PLANS TO RAISE MONEY OUTSIDE OF CANADA

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): In view of the fact that it was disclosed last night that there will be a new federal cash requirement in the current fiscal year of \$8.8 billion, would the minister indicate where he plans to raise that amount of money, bearing in mind that in the March 31 budget the former minister of finance outlined where he planned to raise the financial requirements, which were \$2 billion less at that point? Specifically, is there any plan to raise money outside Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): At this time, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member has some grounds for complaining, but had we followed the recommendations made by the Leader of the Opposition in his speech concerning a tax reduction and a lesser deficit, had we followed that particular policy, we would obviously have had many more problems. As to the way we will raise and borrow money, my officials tell me that no problem will arise. We will use the usual avenues.

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF INCOME TAX BILL

Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Last night in his statement he said on page 10 and I quote:

Long delays in passing tax bills add to uncertainty. We should move swiftly to enact the measures proposed in the last budget and the new measures I have proposed tonight.

Considering the concern of businessmen and taxpayers in general, and since the bill arising from the last budget was shelved at the close of the second session, could the minister advise the House of the approximate date when the tax bill will be tabled?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I hope the bill will be ready within ten days and it will be introduced as soon as it is ready. I certainly hope the House will cooperate to ensure speedy passage in November, so that the financial community and all Canadians may be fully aware of the incentives announced by the Minister of Finance last spring, as well as the incentives I announced in yesterday's minibudget.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

POSSIBILITY OF CONSULTATIONS WITH ORGANIZED LABOUR ON TERMINATION OF CONTROLS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. In August Mr. Morris of the CLC said that there would be no further economic consultations between labour and the government until the end of controls. In view of the fact that controls are to be gradually lifted beginning April 14 has there been any communication