

the opportunity to use the services of the merchants of Water Street who, of course, were the ancestors of the Hon. Member.

I would only say to the Hon. Member that the question of any further direct support for the company that he mentioned, the existence of which has been saved by the policy of the Government which gave it a very generous infusion of funds, is one that I would want to bring to the attention of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I would be happy to do that for my hon. friend.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

PRIVACY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Revenue. The Privacy Commissioner has completed his report on the attempt by Revenue Canada to gain access to the computerized data base in the City of Kitchener. He found that if the Department had secured this information it might very well have violated Sections 10 and 11 of the Privacy Act, and he said that the Department's request to Kitchener was characterized by casualness and carelessness. I would like to ask the Acting Minister what specific actions the Department proposes to take as a result of the Privacy Commissioner's report.

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister is not present in the House today, I will take notice of the question and bring it to his attention.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, that is certainly an improvement on the answers we normally receive.

DEPARTMENT'S POWERS OF SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister because it is a concern of such importance. I would do so if I could have the Prime Minister's attention.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, it appears as if the lights are on but nobody is home over there.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Hon. Member ask his question?

Mr. Beatty: In view of the fact that it should now have become as evident to the Government, as it is to most observers, that Section 231 of the Income Tax Act gives the Department such sweeping powers of search and seizure that it poses a very grave threat to the civil liberties of Canadians, is the Prime Minister prepared to undertake to have introduced in the House, prior to summer recess, amendments to Section 231 of the Act which would constrain those powers of search and

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seizure and bring them back into line with the basic civil liberties of Canadian taxpayers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member complimented the Parliamentary Secretary for his very good answer and said that it was an improvement on previous answers. I would only want to echo the words of the Parliamentary Secretary, and thereby share in the compliments of the Hon. Member.

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EMPLOYMENT

GRANT MADE TO CANADIAN ALLIANCE FOR ITALIAN INTEGRATION AND CULTURE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. On February 14 I raised and documented in the House the matter of a grant of \$583,000 that he made to the Canadian Alliance for Italian Integration and Culture. I now have in my possession two letters from the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Toronto District, indicating that the Minister met with that group and agreed to scale the grant down to one-third of its original amount, and that he would meet with Mr. Joe Volpe to work out the details. Would the Minister confirm that he had that agreement with the Italian Canadians, and would he also confirm that he changed his mind and is now giving them the entire grant of \$583,000?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. gentleman the confirmation that he seeks. It is true that I met with the group to which he referred and we discussed whether or not it would be possible for there to be a reduction in the amount of the grant. I indicated that I would support the reduction if it was possible for the various interested parties to work out an agreement about it. However, at no point did I say that I would impose such a reduction on the Alliance which received the grant.

The Hon. Member is incorrect in asking me to confirm his comment. I cannot do that because that is not an accurate picture of the commitment I made. Many weeks ago we did indicate that the original grant was confirmed after not one but two assessments and reviews were undertaken by the civil servants in my Department to see whether or not there was justification for the grant that was given. The report made by my Department's officials indicated to me that indeed there was such justification.

● (1440)

REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL CONFIRMATION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): On February 14 the Minister said:

I can assure him—