

NATIONAL REVENUE

INQUIRY AS TO COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS OWING BY JOHN C. DOYLE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue I should like to ask the acting minister a question concerning the accounts due to the Department of National Revenue by that notorious refugee from justice, John C. Doyle. It was said some months ago in answer to a question in the House that some settlement had been arranged in connection with the millions of dollars owing by him for income taxes. I would ask the minister to tell the House, now that Doyle is in custody, whether the government has collected the enormous amounts on which this man was in default?

Hon. Herb Gray (Acting Minister of National Revenue): I shall be happy to take notice of that question and bring it to the attention of my colleague.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am just wondering whether Mr. Doyle is still the pampered pet of the Liberals as he was under Smallwood and Pickersgill.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Since Doyle has now been charged, and has enjoyed the weekend in what we commonly call the crowbar hotel, would the minister be prepared to negotiate with the United States authorities with a view to trading Doyle, who is wanted in the United States, for Banks, who is also a fond friend of the Liberal party, and bring Banks back to justice?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

POSSIBILITY OF CHARGING EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES EMPLOYMENT RATED PREMIUMS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the minister received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission a proposal, a brief or a proposition in connection with charging employers and employees employment-rated premiums for unemployment insurance much in the same way that the Workmen's Compensation Board charges employers employment or danger-rated premiums in connection with payments to that fund?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I do not recognize any brief or submission in the terms the hon. member has described but I shall certainly inquire. He may be referring to serious discussions which took place and which concern part of the present act in connection with merit-rated premiums, a part of the act that has not yet been proclaimed.

Oral Questions

ALLEGED PAY SUPPLEMENTS BY EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOYEES PRIOR TO LAY-OFFS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM BENEFITS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Is the minister aware that a great number of employers are using the unemployment insurance fund to supplement or handle employees during lay-off periods and are topping up pay prior to lay-offs so that employees may receive the maximum possible benefits from the fund during the period of lay off?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I would be very grateful to the hon. member for any specific information he may have on this matter. I can assure him that whenever such indication has been given we have conducted investigations. I shall be very glad to co-operate with the hon. member if he will co-operate with me by providing this information so we can act.

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ENERGY

USE OF TANKERS TO TRANSPORT OIL VIA ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Mr. J. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In the light of statements by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Prime Minister that the supplying of crude oil to eastern Canada was one of the major problems and that the government recognized it in August and September, can the hon. gentleman tell us why it took until the middle of November before any priority was given to oil tankers passing through the St. Lawrence Seaway system, although it was known that the seaway would be closed down within four weeks?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I think that from August, 1973, to date there has been a constant increase in the amount of oil moved through the St. Lawrence and the seaway, rising from 15,000 tons to 300,000 tons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Morgan: When was the order given that oil tankers moving through the St. Lawrence Seaway system should be given priority?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I cannot say exactly, Mr. Speaker, but it was surely several weeks ago.

Mr. Morgan: About the middle of November, yes?

Mr. Hees: At least two weeks ago.