

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Get him to repeat the question.

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, I thought I made it clear a few moments ago that Saskatchewan, with 60 per cent of grain exports, and with the additional potential of \$2 billion in revenue at present day prices over the decade of which we are speaking will realize a benefit of approximately \$1.2 billion in additional revenue because this initiative will ensure that the grain gets to market in an efficient manner.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** One of the complementary initiatives is, of course, the construction of something like 3,800 hopper cars.

**An Hon. Member:** Here we go again.

**Mr. Johnston:** If Hon. Members are interested in the answer, Madam Speaker, I would suggest that they give me an opportunity to provide the facts.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** The Hon. Member knows that is contained in the material before him. As the Prime Minister pointed out, what is being asked here is a participation in the cost in future. The Crow benefit to the tune of \$651 million will continue to be paid to the prairie grain farmers.

**An Hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Johnston:** It is these additional costs in the future which they are being invited to share in with the other taxpayers of Canada.

**Mr. Deans:** They are not being invited to share at all. It is like inviting the old age pensioners to share.

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## NATIONAL REVENUE

## GARNISHING OF SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTS

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. The collection departments of the National Revenue offices across Canada, certainly of British Columbia, are garnisheeing 100 per cent of accounts receivable of small businesses even though that will mean those businesses cannot pay their employees. When did that directive go out from his office, and why?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, if accounts of certain businesses were garnisheed, it was certainly not done because of any specific instructions from the Department of National Revenue. These businesses were clearly defaulting on payments, either for

income tax or deductions at source, so it is not a matter of specific instructions but of the administration of our tax laws.

[English]

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, we know the Government is short of money, but is it a small business policy of the Government now to shut down businesses in order to extract every last ounce of blood it can from those small businesses?

Is it part of the Minister's policy to send out third person directives without the knowledge of the business affected by those directives?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I fail to see why the Hon. Member insists on the credibility of his statements, I explained to him that when it was necessary to garnishee the bank account of a company or person, it was because the company or person had seriously defaulted on income tax payments. If a person or company has defaulted on income tax payments, the other taxpayers who do pay their taxes every month are in fact paying as well for those who do not, and the Hon. Member should realize this.

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[English]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## ROLE OF CANADA IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The President of Egypt met with the House of Commons and Senate Foreign Affairs Committees this morning. He had discussions with the Prime Minister yesterday. The President discussed the Canadian role in the peace process in the Middle East, and his Minister of State has said that Canada should play a more active role.

Will the Prime Minister tell us whether he agrees that Canada should play a more active role in the Middle East peace process? If he does, how does the Prime Minister see us playing a more active role?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, for the time being I think the preferred option would be to support President Reagan's initiative of last September, which is well known to the Hon. Member, I am sure. We have indicated our support for that as well as for other options. If the Hon. Member would urge us to be more active, I suppose we could support that option more actively and appeal for the help of the Opposition to make it appear to be a united House of Commons which is encouraging President Reagan to follow up on his proposal.