

S.O. 21

businesses have had their tax rate extended in this Bill. Previously people got the big business rate at \$150,000 profit and now it is \$200,000. This is a big addition to their treasuries.

The retained surpluses have expanded from \$750,000 to \$1 million. Again that is a lot of elbow room in which these businesses can operate. We have targeted help through the Small Business Bond, but we have left healthy small businesses more money at a lower rate to develop and to grow with. The two go hand in hand.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. It being one o'clock, it is my duty to rise, report progress and request leave to consider the Bill later this day.

Progress reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon. Have a good lunch.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**INSTALLATION OF FIRING RANGE IN BAGOTVILLE-CHICOUTIMI-SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION OF QUEBEC**

Mr. Marcel Dionne (Chicoutimi): Madam Speaker, after consulting some military authorities here in Ottawa, I would like to reassure the people of Bagotville, Chicoutimi and the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean area in general about the plans of the Department of National Defence for setting up a firing range in our area. First of all, a similar range has been in use in Alberta, at Primrose Lake, for a number of years. According to my information, every precaution is taken to prevent any risk to the general public and especially to people living near the site. I was given the assurance that Base Command in Bagotville will be in touch with municipal councils and other representatives of the public to provide all the necessary information on the activities that take place around such facilities.

I have been told that there will be a genuine information and consultation process, on a continuing basis. Actually, the Department of National Defence has always made a point of being part of and protecting, the communities living near its bases. The Department may be said to have been successful in

discharging its responsibilities in this regard. We are therefore anxious to get an answer from the Province of Quebec.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ADVENT OF COMPUTERIZED PASSPORT SCANNERS**

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, in order to avoid unnecessary and aggravating lineups at ports of entry, as well as to utilize customs personnel more efficiently, it is reported that a number of countries plan to introduce computerized passport scanners at principal customs points. For the system to work effectively it will require that passports be machine readable and contain the requisite computer coded information.

The United States reportedly already issues passports readable in both the conventional manner and by computer scanners, and expects all its passports will be machine readable by 1985. Many other countries plan to follow suit. Therefore, in order to facilitate international travel, might it be possible for Canada to co-ordinate its efforts with those of other countries to adopt an internationally compatible system of computerized passport control and, as soon as possible, initiate the issuance of machine readable passports?

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[Translation]

ENERGY**EFFECT OF HIGH RETAIL PRICE OF GASOLINE ON SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION OF QUEBEC**

Mr. Pierre Gimaïel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Madam Speaker, I wish to take advantage of the few seconds at my disposal to speak to an ever-worsening problem in my area, namely, the price of gas at the pump. During the last three years, the Canadian Government has established a policy of security of oil supplies for our country, and I think we can say this policy has been an unqualified success. Unfortunately, the Canadian Government has no jurisdiction over indirect taxes on gas. I want to appeal to the goodwill of my fellow Members, both on the Opposition and on the Government side, since it is clear that as far as gas retail sales are concerned in Canada, we have a real problem on our hands, because the Provinces are extremely uncooperative. After the latest tax increase ordered by the Quebec Government and Mr. Parizeau, people in my area are paying about \$1.20 for a gallon of gas, which is absolutely exorbitant for people who have to buy gas to travel and to transport what they need, and the extra 40 per cent or 24 cents a litre in provincial tax is putting a very heavy burden on the entire economy in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean area.