

Oral Questions

assist job creation in areas which are partly under provincial jurisdiction. These meetings are ongoing; and some successes have already been achieved. I repeat that the Ministers of Finance are meeting today to discuss that very type of subject.

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INCOME TAX**REVIEW OF TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR YOUTH FOR CHRIST WORKERS**

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. A well known non-profit national organization, respected for many years for its work among young people with severe social problems, has historically been given tax advantages to help its cash flow problems. This organization is known as Youth for Christ. The Tax Department has now decided to reassess the taxes of the workers of this organization as far back as two years and if necessary will garnishee up to 50 per cent of their wages for outstanding taxes. Why has there been this change in policy within the Tax Department concerning these youth workers?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I am not aware of the particular case referred to by the Hon. Member. Once I have looked at the facts and obtained further information, I shall be able to give him a more satisfactory answer.

[English]

ATTITUDE OF TAX OFFICIALS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister would he also give these faceless officers, who telephone these workers, a few lessons in human decency, and tell them not to laugh at these people who are hard-pressed when it comes to their income. They are trying to negotiate their position. Is it a policy of his Department to go after individual workers who have very few resources with which to defend themselves rather than contacting national headquarters? Is it because they fear that national headquarters might have some corporate lawyers who could defend the workers?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, in my previous answer, I indicated to the Hon. Member that I was not aware of the facts of the specific case to which he was referring. The Hon. Member will understand that since I am not aware of what happened, I can hardly make any kind of judgment, either with respect to the

conduct of departmental officials or the circumstances mentioned by the Hon. Member.

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[English]

CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION**LEGALITY OF LEVY ON MILK PRODUCERS**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. A difference of opinion exists between the Canadian Dairy Commission and the Auditor General's Department on the legality of the levy that is taken from milk producers. The Auditor General has sought the advice of two legal firms which claim the procedure is illegal. The Canadian Dairy Commission has the advice of the Department of Justice which thinks the procedure is legal. On whose side is the Minister of Agriculture?

An Hon. Member: All sides.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am on the legal side.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Towers: That is a really intelligent comment from a stupid Minister of Agriculture, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

RCMP INVESTIGATION

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, with regard to the investigation that is taking place in the Dairy Commission concerning \$30 million misappropriation, in view of the fact that the RCMP are now investigating this matter, can the Minister of Agriculture tell us when the RCMP are going to report?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I will not refer to the kind of a Member I think the Hon. Member is. He made mention of the kind of Minister he thought I was, and that is his right, I guess.

Justice lawyers have advised us properly in many, many instances. I can think of only one or two instances when they have advised us improperly—maybe what they thought was properly but it turned out not to be the right advice. When the Hon. Member talks about what the RCMP are doing, I answered that same question in the House some time ago. It is not my duty to put pressure on the RCMP. They do not come under my Department. They are under a different Department and they report to a different Minister. They do not report to me.

Mr. McDermid: Thank heavens for small mercies.