

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): A supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Will any such legislation on the tax bite be made retroactive to January 1?

Mr. Sharp: I do not think it would be proper for me to answer a question of that kind. The government's proposals will be brought before the house in due course.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Is the minister considering the possibility of introducing a bill to impose taxes on the Conservatives only?

[English]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Revenue. Is it the intention of the government to refund the tax which has been collected illegally since January 1?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to credit each taxpayer for the taxes that have been collected since January 1, 1968, under the provision concerning this 5 per cent surtax.

[English]

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Can the Minister of National Revenue advise the house when the new schedule of deductions will go forth to employers?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the personnel of the Department of National Revenue are now preparing a new table which will be sent to the employers, we hope, before March 15.

[English]

Mr. Hales: Will the minister and his department be issuing new income tax forms?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, these tables will be sent to employers before March 15, at the same time as the assessment tables, as it is done every year.

[English]

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue whether it is the intention of the government to bring in another tax measure to take care of the credit, which is merely a bookkeeping entry.

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[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: The hon. Minister of Finance made a statement on this subject a few moments ago.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether it is safe for us to assume that the government does not know what it is doing in this regard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Perhaps that question ought to be answered by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Mr. Starr: You sure ran out of ideas for answers.

TRADE

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Because of the possible imminent retirement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce it becomes all the more important to ask this question now. In view of the fact that the wheat board's crop year has passed the halfway point, and in view of the fact that wheat exports are approximately 40 per cent of last year's level, can the minister say whether the government has in mind any special course of action to deal with this rather grave situation?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker; an intensive program of hard selling.

Mr. Schreyer: As a supplementary question I would like to ask the minister whether in this intensive program of hard selling his department will examine the United States wheat selling program, under which they have been able to keep wheat exports running at approximately the same level as last year.

Mr. Winters: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not think we will be following the same practices, but we are in constant touch with the United States authorities in an effort to work co-operatively to maintain order in the wheat markets of the world, and we are making some progress.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Does he think the final payments for wheat, oats and