

Oral Questions

who, early in August, will be celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of The Lake Winnipeg Treaty No. 5.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday I indicated that by virtue of the rather extraordinary importance and implication during the question period of certain questions of privilege that were outstanding, the House might agree to deal with those prior to the question period. We did that once in order to clarify what might be done in the question period. I do not think we ought to do that on a daily basis. There are still outstanding questions of privilege, but I think we should take them in the ordinary course of procedure at the end of the question period.

● (1110)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR. FAULKNER—REPORT ON TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM PRESIDENT OF OUTBOARD MOTOR COMPANY IN PETERBOROUGH CONCERNING TAX CHANGE ON BOATS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Has he now had an opportunity to check his memory with respect to my question yesterday with regard to a telephone conversation between himself and the President of the Outboard Marine Corporation of Peterborough, Ontario in which the president of the company, Mr. McMillan, informed the minister that he had been told there was to be a 10 per cent excise tax coming up in the budget two weeks hence?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to talk to Mr. McMillan yesterday on the phone. He confirmed that he had talked to me and I apparently replied to him in the vein that I was not in a position, as a member of cabinet, to discuss that issue with him, and that is where it ended. I think he elaborated on that in the news yesterday.

Mr. McGrath: Did Mr. McMillan, in the course of his conversation with the minister, identify the source of the information and what did the minister do with the information he received with Mr. McMillan?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. McMillan yesterday contended that he had received some information from his dealer—he could not remember, or he did not specify, which dealer it was in Kenora. What was the second part of the question?

Mr. McGrath: The second part of the question was: Did Mr. McMillan identify the source of the information and what did the minister do with this information?

Mr. Faulkner: I did not do anything with the information of a particular kind. I simply told Mr. McMillan that

[Mr. Speaker.]

as a member of the cabinet I could not discuss this issue with him.

Mr. McGrath: In view of the public statements which have already been issued by Mr. McMillan in which he identifies the precise terms of the conversation and in view of the fact that Mr. McMillan has sworn to an affidavit in which he recounts his version of the conversation, may I now ask the minister once again whether he recalls the precise terms of the conversation, which took place two weeks prior to the budget? Further, did the minister, when he received that information discuss it with the Minister of Finance, and if not, why not?

Mr. Faulkner: I don't remember discussing it with the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Faulkner: Well, it seemed to me at the time to be a piece of speculation on the part of Mr. McMillan based on a contact he had with a dealer in Kenora and I told him I was not prepared to discuss it.

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FINANCE

POSSIBLE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MINISTER AND MEMBER FOR KENORA-RAINY RIVER CONCERNING EXCISE TAX ON BOATS—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question would be for the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance tell the House whether during the period between his May and November budgets of last year he had any written communication with the member for Kenora-Rainy River on the subject of specific excise tax proposals and would he be prepared to table any and all such correspondence in the House?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I would have to ascertain whether there was any such correspondence. As I said yesterday, I had representations from all over the country after the May 6 budget, particularly after the government was returned on July 8, as to the excise tax on boats and motors. I also received representations from all quarters of the House on the same issue. But I will have to look into the question of whether there was any correspondence.

INQUIRY AS TO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MINISTER AND MEMBER FOR KENORA-RAINY RIVER CONCERNING EXCISE TAX ON BOATS

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): In view of the minister's answer today and also of his answer as reported in *Hansard* yesterday when I asked him whether he had had any personal conversations with the hon. parliamentary secretary concerning the proposed amendment to the Excise Tax Act, which appeared in the House on January 28, I should like again to ask the hon. gentleman, who yesterday stated he could not distinctly recall that, whether he had any conversation with the hon. parliamentary secretary with respect to the proposed amendment to the