

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, hon. members know that this is within the power of the House and it has so decided in the past on a few occasions. But to my knowledge it is not in the government's program to deprive any group of workers of their right to strike.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that was not the answer given on previous occasions when measures were brought into this House. I ask the minister how long this strike is going to be permitted to continue before the government does something more than simply snooze?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can have it both ways. If the House gives the right to strike to a particular group, as soon as that group goes on strike we cannot say: Don't go on strike because it is creating embarrassment.

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### NATIONAL REVENUE

#### OFFSETTING OF ONTARIO PROPERTY TAX CREDITS AGAINST ARREARS OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that the government, through the Department of National Revenue, is acting as agent, I would ask the minister on what authority he is acting when he claims payments made under the Ontario property tax credit scheme to senior citizens and uses this money to pay off federal tax arrears?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has serious doubts about a question asked in those terms. It seems to me the hon. member is asking for a legal interpretation. Perhaps I am wrong in this interpretation of the rule. The minister might be allowed to reply briefly.

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, without attempting a legal interpretation I think I can say as a matter of fact that there is provision in the agreements for administering the tax credit schemes of Ontario and Manitoba for such offsetting. This provision was drawn to the attention of provincial negotiators, who responded to the effect that this was a deliberate decision taken by Ontario. I understand it has been communicated in two brochures sent by the province of Ontario to persons who might be entitled to the property tax credit.

**Mr. Hales:** In drafting the agreements with the provinces, was this stipulation laid down by the federal government that they would collect this money provided they could divert it to pay off old debts?

**Mr. Stanbury:** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. As I say, this point was specifically drawn to the attention of the Ontario authorities, and they responded that this decision had been deliberately taken by them and that this was the way they wished the matter to be dealt with.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

#### CONSIDERATION OF DISCONTINUANCE OF TAX COLLECTION FOR PROVINCES

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the same minister. Has any consideration been given to the possibility of discontinuing the practice of collecting taxes for the provinces and of allowing them to collect their own taxes so the people of Canada will know where the money goes?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose this would be a matter for discussion between the Minister of Finance and the finance ministers of the provinces, but I can tell the hon. member that it is no joy for the Department of National Revenue to spend up to half its time in the days before returns are filed answering questions about provincial taxes.

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● (1450)

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS WITH WEST GERMANY CONCERNING CANADA'S EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Have any discussions taken place between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Canada's extractive industries and, if so, have we arrived at any firm conclusion or agreement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I know of no such discussion, Mr. Speaker, but I will inquire and see if there is any such matter under discussion.

#### INQUIRY RESPECTING PROPOSAL BY WEST GERMANY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SHIP TO CARRY CANADIAN MINERALS THROUGH NORTHERN ICE

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, this question should almost be raised as a point of order because of its importance. May I ask the Minister of Transport and/or the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether or not in fact negotiations are going on with the Germans and whether or not it is a fact that the government of Canada expects that the Federal Republic of Germany will submit a proposal for the joint development of a polar ice cargo carrying ship for the extraction of mineral resources in our north?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I know of no formal negotiations going on between Canada and the German Federal Republic. The hon. member may be referring to the fact that there is a very important delegation of German businessmen in Ottawa today. They are moving on to Toronto and Montreal. It is a return visit to that by Canadian businessmen to Germany a few years ago headed by my predecessor.

**Mr. Forrestall:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think it is incumbent upon members of the government to pro-