

Excise

probably be hit with some of this tax, if the government were to reconsider these provisions. I hope the government will entertain the idea of exempting people in these specific vocations, considering their use of motorized toboggans and outboard motors which are not used as pleasure vehicles but in order to make a living. I think it would be rather easy to administer such an exemption, because these people need licences to operate and so could prove their occupation if an exemption were written into the bill.

I am not completely satisfied that adding \$5 for transportation will not hurt the northern operator. In the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, people travel by air because that is the only means of transportation. The weight of the aircraft used by people in the categories I have mentioned is usually under 12,500 pounds; indeed, the majority of these aircraft are in the 3,000 to 5,000 pound range. Any aircraft of 18,000 pounds and over is usually operated by a big company because the hunter, the trapper and the prospector as individuals cannot afford to charter them.

Another point that should be considered in the taxation of aircraft in the north is that if the taxes are used for making available facilities such as airstrips and airports, the people who charter small aircraft to conduct their business rarely use these facilities. Their landings are made mostly on lakes, rivers and sand bars. They do not make much use of airports; indeed, there are not many airports anyway. Such a tax would hit these people.

Another factor is that the high cost of fuel increases the cost of air charter. Even a Cessna 185, which is most often used by the people I have mentioned, weighs something like 3,500 pounds. I hope that the government will seriously consider exempting from this tax people in the vocations I have referred to. It would hit very hard the people in the northern parts of the provinces and those north of sixty. There are not too many people involved, and I think they deserve serious consideration.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Chairman, there is a need to assist or to subsidize air travel in the north and other remote areas, but it was considered better to do this by other means than tax exemptions. I would point out to the hon. member that in the area he represents, only 19 out of 355 aircraft would be affected. There is an extra fuel tax, or a 10 per cent surtax on boats, however. That tax will only apply when the sales tax applies. Commercial vehicles are exempt.

● (1640)

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the discussion so far has been on clause 1 but, I understand that we have been discussing also, clause 21 on page 11 of the bill. May I ask, for clarification, if we are at this stage to comment on the various parts of the bill, or is the discussion to be restricted to clause 1? I ask this question as I wish to make some comments when we reach the appropriate clause.

The Chairman: I wish to bring to the hon. member's attention that the Chair, not the minister, decides which clause is to be discussed. We are now discussing clause 1, the clause which I called for the sake of orderly discus-

[Mr. Firth.]

sion. We are following long established practice. Usually we discuss bills like this clause by clause unless the committee consents to some other kind of discussion. This is a specific clause, not a descriptive clause. I do not feel that the committee is disposed to allow hon. members to discuss in general all aspects of the taxation bill at this stage.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will wait.

Mr. Firth: Mr. Chairman, my question concerns the taxing of motor boats and outboard motors over a specific size. The minister mentioned that commercial vehicles will be exempt. The bill, as I read it, will not exempt such equipment bought by hunters, trappers and prospectors. Such people generally operate under a licence which permits them to hunt, trap, fish, and so on. The vehicles in which they move around do not come under the commercial category. These people use boats which are seemingly like pleasure craft. I wish some distinction could be made in this area. The bill should spell out the fact that such craft are to be exempt from excise tax.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Chairman, that is a matter of specific import and we will deal with it at the appropriate stage. The hon. member's request is specific, he has not raised a general question, and I would prefer to deal with it at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, the way the discussion is going on, it seems that we could refer more specifically to motor boats of 20 HP or over. I had specific representations to make about some shipyards established in my constituency. I even want to bring in an amendment to that clause. Since the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) is willing to hear representations on section 21(2)(11), I will wait till then.

[English]

Mr. Brisco: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that you had ruled that we were to deal with the bill clause by clause. I do not think we have reached the clause referred to by the hon. member who just spoke. The hon. member was dealing with clause 21 and it is my impression that we are still dealing with clause 1. Perhaps I am wrong.

The Chairman: The hon. member is quite right. The hon. member who spoke previously said that he will make suggestions on clause 21, and then he sat down. I could not communicate what was said, although the hon. member did indicate that he will seek the floor when we reach the clause in which he is interested. At present we are on clause 1.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I should like to ask the minister some information on the reduction of the sales tax on building materials. Recently, in reply to a question I put to him in the House, the minister assured me that he would see to it that some supervision was exercised to see that the cut would be of direct benefit to new owners. I had pointed out that the