

system, as announced by my predecessor in the budget of June 23, 1975. I would like to assure the honourable member that the use of conditional exemptions based on "end use" to provide sales tax exemption for agricultural implements, parts and attachments will be considered during this review exercise.

2. The proposals of the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association concerning the use of annual or semi-annual exemption certificates to replace "end user certificates" will receive careful consideration during the course of the commodity tax review.

CRTC—NON-ESSENTIAL TELEGRAMS

Question No. 5,541—Mr. Beatty:

1. What is the policy of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission with respect to the sending of non-essential telegrams during a period of austerity?

2. Did the CRTC send telegrams in 1975 and, if so (a) how many (b) at what cost to the taxpayer?

Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): 1. It is the policy of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to send telegrams and/or telex only in instances where mail service is not able to meet prescribed deadlines as set out in the Broadcasting Act for interventions, etc.

2. (a) 8,600; (b) \$31,000.

INCREASE IN OIL PRICES

Question No. 5,654—Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):

1. How much has the government earned through the successive increases of oil prices, in each year, since 1972?

2. What percentage of funds has been granted to oil companies for research and to which companies?

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources reports as follows: 1. This matter is dealt with in the second section of the report entitled "An Energy Strategy for Canada—Policies for Self-Reliance" (especially page 39 in the English version; page 48 in the French version). This report was tabled in the House by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources April 27, 1976.

2. The above report (page 145 of the English version and page 162 of the French) shows the federal energy research and development program expenditures for oil and gas were \$10.5 million in 1975-76 and about \$12.0 million in the current fiscal year. Some of these monies will be spent via grants to private industry for approved projects, but not necessarily by oil and gas firms.

ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK—ACQUISITION OF LAND

Question No. 5,729—Mr. Cossitt:

1. With reference to negotiations presently under way by Parks Canada for the purchase of certain islands in the St. Lawrence River as additions to the St. Lawrence Islands National Park (a) are such purchases governed by the National Parks Act, Section 3(b) which states that such acquisitions can be made when "agreement has been

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reached with the Province in which the lands are situated that the lands are suitable for addition to a National Park" (b) in the case of each of the properties presently being acquired, on what dates was provincial approval received, from whom was it received and who received it?

2. If provincial approval has not been received for the acquisition of additional property for St. Lawrence Islands National Park, on what basis can the government legally proceed with acquisitions now in progress?

Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):

1. (a) No; (b) Not required.

2. Section 6(3) of the National Parks Act, R.S. c. N-13 amended by 1974 c. 11.

UIC—CHEQUES NOT PICKED UP DURING POSTAL STRIKE

Question No. 5,754—Mr. Cossitt:

What is the total number of unemployment insurance cheques that were cancelled, and claims closed, as a result of the fact that the cheques were not picked up personally during the last postal strike and (a) how is the total broken down by province (b) was any investigation conducted to determine how many of these might or might not have been fraudulent claims and, (i) if so, with what result (ii) if not, for what reason (c) did the Minister or any other senior official of the Unemployment Insurance Commission receive recommendations for an investigation into possible defrauding and, if so (i) on what date and from whom (ii) was no investigation carried out on the grounds of insufficient manpower to perform it?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): In so far as the Unemployment Insurance Commission is concerned—Approximately* 1,520 warrants were cancelled as a result of the fact warrants were not picked up personally during the last postal strike and (a) total by province not available but by region is as follows: Atlantic Region (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland) (\$7,679.00) or about 40* warrants; Quebec Region (Quebec) (\$110,428.00) or about 600 warrants; Ontario Region (Ontario) (\$109,967.00) or about 600 warrants; Prairies Region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta) (\$18,814.00) or about 100 warrants; Pacific Region (British Columbia) (\$31,709.00) or about 180 warrants.

*Number estimated by dividing actual dollar value of cancelled warrants (\$278,597) by average bi-weekly benefit payment of \$178. Actual count of cancelled warrants not extractable from general statistics.

(b) Yes; through the normal benefit control activity. (b) (i) Statistics resulting from subsequent investigation of those failing to report are not extractable from normal benefit control activity of the Commission and, therefore, specific activities in this regard cannot be reported. However, 3 possible prosecutions have been initiated, 1 in the Atlantic provinces where it is suspected that an employer posed as a claimant and 2 in the Pacific Region where two claimants did not report earnings while in receipt of benefits; (b) (ii) Not applicable, see (b) (i); (c) The Executive Committee of the UIC decided that all claimants who could not be contacted, or where there was a suspicion of fraud, should be investigated by Benefit Control and this was done; (c) (i) See (c); (c) (ii) Investigations were carried out; see (b) (i).