

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): We have a federal system of government, and the provincial governments are given very full powers, and by the arrangements, for example, that we will be debating today they are given substantial fiscal means to discharge this particular responsibility.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

ELECTION EXPENSES**ALLEGED REASON FOR DELAY OF LIBERAL PARTY REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

It has to do with the report on contributions to political parties. At the end of December 1976, I obtained from Mr. Hamel's office all reports on contributions to political parties for the year ending December 31, 1975, except that of the Liberal party. I have been told that it will not be ready before the end of June 1977. Could the minister inform the House whether this is a normal situation, what are the reasons for such a delay and is there in the law a deadline for such presentation. The reason I ask this question is that I need the report at the end of May 1977 at the latest.

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue (Miss Bégin).

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I thought it was the Minister of Manpower and Immigration because all the correspondence I received was signed by that minister. I apologize, and I shall direct my question to the Minister of National Revenue in the hope that she will give me an answer or investigate.

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Revenue): It will be a pleasure for me to do so, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

URBAN AFFAIRS**EFFECT OF DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN TRANSIT ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the senior member in the cabinet from Toronto, the Minister of Finance. Does he not believe that in rejecting the 1974 promise he has cast aside a good industrial policy for the country, and does he not believe that some kind of a direction towards an urban transit system in Canada would be a good measure for saving energy?

[Mr. Broadbent.]

• (1140)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated previously, it is not an either-or question in so far as either the saving of energy, the convenience of urban living or, indeed, with regard to industrial policy. There are substantial resources and responsibilities at the provincial level for the purpose of carrying out these kinds of improvements in our community, and I see no difficulty in their proceeding with the policy.

Mr. Horner: We on this side of the House are greatly concerned about the priorities of the government. It seems to have \$60 million to buy Canadair and \$40 million to buy de Havilland; why does the government not have some money to direct toward the system which the people are using and really want to improve?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is an argumentative nature to the question. The hon. member for Don Valley.

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPMENT OF TORONTO HARBOUR FRONT IN RELATION TO RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask him why one election promise, namely the harbour front, was kept in Toronto, whereas this one has been thrown out. Is it the position of the government that the harbour front is more important to the people of Toronto than a rapid transit system?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I point out to the hon. gentleman that the acquisition of the harbour front was achieved before the time, and with respect to our expenditures, we set ourselves upon the course—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Mr. Phoney.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The funds for the harbour front were expended before we set on the present course of reducing government expenditures.

An hon. Member: This must be very embarrassing for you, Don.

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INCOME TAX**SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF TAX DEDUCTION FOR THE DISABLED**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of special considerations which have been granted to people in wheelchairs, people who are bedridden or blind—and that consideration is a special tax deduction of \$1,420—would the minister comment as to whether he finds this equitable since two of those categories, those who are blind and those who are in