

**AIR TRANSPORT**

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO REASONS FOR LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY REGULATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move an urgent motion. In view of the violation of air safety regulations in northwestern Ontario and the revelation that air inspectors were told by their Ottawa superior not to suspend licences of airlines violating these regulations until "you fully consider the possibility of embarrassment to the minister and any other potential political implications", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters):

That this House instruct the Minister of Transport to institute a public inquiry into the state of air safety in northwestern Ontario and the reasons air safety regulations have not been adequately enforced.

**Mr. Speaker:** Such a motion can be presented only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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**POST OFFICE**

SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF SALARY OF POSTMASTER GENERAL UNTIL SERVICE PROFITABLE—MOTION UNDER S. O. 43

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the Postmaster General's recent announcement that first-class letter rates would be increased to 14 cents, and in view of the fact that wicket service on Saturday mornings is to end in rural Manitoba on December 1, all in the name of making the post office profitable once again, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Portage (Mr. Masniuk):

That the salary of the Postmaster General be reduced to \$1 annually till such a time as his regular salary can be paid from post office profits.

**Mr. Speaker:** Such a motion can be introduced only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**INCOME TAX**

BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX RETURNS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of National

*Oral Questions*

Revenue. Two weeks have past since the disclosure that it was possible to violate the personal privacy of individual Canadian taxpayers by telephoning the Department of National Revenue and asking for information. Serious questions about what the minister has done to plug the leaks in the two weeks since the revelation remain unanswered. Has the minister made investigations within his department independent of those being made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? If he has, can he tell the House today if he has discovered the method used to get unauthorized access to personal tax information on individual Canadians, how extensive this practice was and on how many Canadians has tax information been given to unauthorized individuals?

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to say I did answer the question put by the hon. member and the allegations he made about giving out information. I do not have the date of his question but I sent a letter to him yesterday in answer to the question suggesting the allegations made in this House were not true. He has a letter from me on that subject. In regard to the investigations that have taken place very successfully since the allegation of the leak, the RCMP provided an interim report today. I am not in a position to reveal the contents. It would not help the situation if I were to make a report at this time on the progress that has been made. I would rather wait until the final outcome of the RCMP investigation. Departmental officials are also looking into the matter.

No doubt members of parliament will receive many complaints about the difficulty in getting an answer or information over the telephone because in future things will not be done that way. I should like to advise members that if they write to us for information about anyone in their constituency they will need a letter from the constituent authorizing them to get the information. It will also be necessary to have a letter from the member before any answers will be given.

● (1417)

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, apparently the minister does not understand what was in the letter that he sent to me. It in no way related to the allegations which were made by Mr. Templeton and Mr. Berton about the availability of personal tax data over the telephone. It is not good enough for the minister to hide behind the RCMP investigation. I want to know what he, as minister, has done to investigate this. How extensive have these leaks been in the past? Does he have the names of Canadians whose personal tax information has been given out to unauthorized individuals over the telephone? What steps is he taking as minister to inform these Canadians that their rights are being violated so that they can take the appropriate action?

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say again that these allegations and comments are not factual. This is not the case. Contrary to what the hon. member is saying in this House, there have been very few leaks out of my department. I told him that we are making an investigation on our own within the department. I am not in a position to give a