

NATIONAL REVENUE

BARRIE HOSPITAL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN—REFUSAL OF TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. The Minister will be aware that one of his officials, Mr. Robert Young, has interfered with the fund raising efforts of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. The hospital plans to give one autographed copy of a print by Ken Danby, a well known Canadian artist, to each of 500 persons who donate in excess of \$500 to the building fund of the Hospital, which would bring in the amount of \$250,000.

Mr. Young has ruled that, if this is done, tax deductible receipts will not be issued. In light of the fact that his Department will collect tax on the \$20,000 which Mr. Danby will receive for the original painting, and the fact that I have previously brought this up in the House and have written the Minister two letters, will the Minister now agree to reverse Mr. Young's decision and support this very worth-while cause?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I may point out to the Hon. Member that the courts have already ruled that for donations to be called charitable, no material good should be received in return.

Nevertheless, I can assure the Hon. Member that I am still discussing the issue of charitable organizations with my officials and the matter is also being discussed with the parties concerned.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER RESIGN

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, it has been three months now. I believe that if the Minister cannot reverse a decision of one of his underlings, it is proof positive again that not only is he discriminating against the taxpayer but he is discriminating against Canadian artists and Canadian hospitals which are under funded because of his Government. If this modern day Shylock will not reverse that decision and tell us he will, why does he not resign and take his place among the lifeless candidates for the Liberal leadership?

● (1440)

An Hon. Member: Bravo, bravo!

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am not resigning because I am not as stupid as the Hon. Member. His argument shows, first of all, that he is ignorant of the laws of this country, and second, that he does not know the facts. Let him get his facts straight first and then argue on the basis of those facts.

Oral Questions

[English]

HOUSING

FUNDING OF CO-OPERATIVE AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have been waiting for three days to ask a question of the Minister responsible for housing. I will ask it of the Prime Minister.

In the past, Mr. Speaker, the unit allocation for co-ops and non-profit housing was in the hands of the recipients by the end of February in order that work could start on the projects. We are well into May and the co-ops and non-profit housing groups are still waiting for an indication of the total number of units which will be approved this year. CMHC is stalling, and releasing funds in dribs and drabs. Can the Prime Minister tell us why the money has not been sent out to these groups? How many units are going to be approved? Would it be possible to have that amount tabled in the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister I will have to take the Hon. Member's question as notice. I do not have the answers at hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River on a supplementary. Does the Hon. Member for Prince Albert have a supplementary? In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has taken the question as notice, it is difficult to understand how a supplementary would be in order. However, I will concede one to the Hon. Member.

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my second question is much more on policy. A large portion of the federal Government's social housing program has been—

Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has indicated he would have to take the first question as notice, it is difficult to construe this kind of a supplementary question as being in order. The Hon. Member for Prince Albert, but he cannot ask a detailed question.

Mr. Hovdebo: A large portion of the federal Government's social housing program goes to social—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Prince George-Peace River on a supplementary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MINING INDUSTRY'S ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Mines). It is supplementary to the question asked on the report on the non-ferrous metal side. It is quite apparent from the report that the Government relies almost entirely for the clean-up of our