

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I am sure he is very angry at the statement made by the President of the United States that he is only going to approve further study up to some \$55 million for acid rain rather than something concrete. Has he discussed this with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and with our ambassador in Washington in order to have them make further representations to the U.S. Government about how important and disturbing this is to all Canadians?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to make representations on this matter on behalf of millions of Canadians who are concerned, and on behalf of the interests that are being damaged in our economy. I am referring to forests, the fisheries, tourism, and even our cities. I would also like to point to the fact that there are millions of Americans who are affected by acid rain and who are very distressed by the announcement made the other night by their President.

• (1150)

CANADIAN INITIATIVES

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister has any further plans for something new which he is going to be able to present to the Canadian people to show that we mean business? I am aware there may be a reduction in automobile emissions and less leaded gas. However, has the Minister any new plans or ideas which will help us to sell this to the United States because we have a great many supporters over there, as the Minister is aware?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the conclusion of the Hon. Member. I am working on plans, and I will announce them at the appropriate time. I hope it will be in the not too distant future.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

INCOME TAX ACT PROVISIONS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. The Minister will recognize that of late budgets have really become an analysis of a change in the Income Tax Act. In that light, having regard to some of the comments which have been made in the House, has the Minister placed himself in a position, after reviewing his departmental performance, to make specific recommendations to the Minister of Finance for his forthcoming Budget which will bring some relief to the taxpayers for whom Hon. Members on this side of the House have been

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speaking, so that that relief might come prior to the expiration of the year for his administrative report?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, in his question the Hon. Member mentioned the responsibility of the Minister of Finance for tax policy. Yesterday, the Minister of Finance announced that there had been many consultations and that these were being continued. Consultations are also taking place with his Cabinet colleagues, and although I cannot discuss the nature of the recommendations I made to the Minister, I did mention certain concerns.

[English]

Mr. Gamble: I am encouraged by the possibility that the impact on the Minister may have some effect.

DELAYS IN ADJUDICATING TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, let me deal with something specifically. About two weeks ago I made a recommendation in the House which seemed to have the approval of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. It related to the shortening of the time by which the Minister's Department might delay a decision after an objection has been filed by a taxpayer who has been assessed. Of course the great problem, as the Minister will recognize, is that when assessments are issued the tax must be paid, and it may be some long time before a matter in dispute may be adjudicated upon. That period surely should be shortened in the interests of justice for the taxpayer. I am wondering whether that kind of recommendation which I made, and which seems to have some support on this side of the House, would in fact find its way into the recommendations which the Minister is making to the Minister of Finance?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is in the House. He has heard the Hon. Member's representations, and I am sure that he will consider them.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

APPLICATION OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport who is aware that his Department issued a memorandum on January 3 expanding its own Affirmative Action Program to include more than women, indigenous people, and the disabled. Will the Minister indicate whether the strategy of his Department for the visible minorities will include more than the black people of Nova Scotia? If not, could he indicate the rationale for that type of directive in his Department?