

S.O. 21

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

MARINE WORKERS' WAGE DISPUTE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has reached a new low in labour relations with its employees. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the various sectors of marine workers have been negotiating with the Government for a balanced agreement between East and West.

Last weekend, in order to thwart the legitimate rights of the union to hold meetings with its members, the Government, through its agencies, ordered vessels out to sea, and in some cases out to the harbour to be tied up. I call on the Government to change its approach, to accept the conciliation report the union has accepted, and to allow work to continue and workers to get a fair wage.

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FINANCE

CANCELLATION OF TAXES—CALL FOR PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, according to the Public Accounts of Canada, during the last fiscal year the Government, by its own admission, gave a special benefit to hundreds of Canadian taxpayers by cancelling over \$882 million in taxes. The Dome remission order is but one example of this.

The Financial Administration Act authorizes the Government to cancel taxes owing if it is in the public interest. However, the reports on which the Government bases its decisions to cancel taxes are cabinet confidences, secret documents that are not made public. This practice has tremendous potential for abuse.

One person's taxes may be cancelled but mine may not. Perhaps it is reasonable that that person's taxes be cancelled, but perhaps someone likes that person and does not like me. We do not know. The reason is a secret. This has been going on for years and years under many Governments, but it is completely unacceptable. The Government must make this information public.

ABORTION

OPPOSITION TO USE AS MEANS OF CONTRACEPTION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in most of the disagreements and arguments that have taken place between pro-lifers and pro-abortionists the focal point has been the issue of contraception. I have said before and I say again that proper birth control methods must be made readily available to all, and sex education must be taught in such a way as to make all people understand those methods.

Money can and should be spent on the sex education of all people, not just those attending high school or college. Once that is done people will be able to make choices concerning the birth of children. As it now stands, abortion is becoming a means of contraception.

For those who do not want children, contraception is proper and necessary. However, once a life has begun it has the God-given right to reach its natural end. That life has the same right to protection under the law as its mother or any other in society.

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MEMBER FOR NUNATSIQ—APOLOGY FOR RACIAL SLUR

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding to Question Period, I have received a letter and I believe it is in the interests of the House that I read the letter to the House in its entirety. It is from the Hon. Member for Nunatsiq (Mr. Suluk), and reads as follows:

Eskimo Point

June 12, 1986

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing in response to what I have learned respecting an incident in the House of Commons on June 11, 1986, concerning a racial slur committed by myself to another Member of the House of Commons.

There seems to be a misunderstanding concerning the unequivocal apology made by me on March 5, 1986.

Being a member of a minority group in Canada, I have experienced discrimination throughout my life. I understand that my statement of March 5 was referred to in the House of Commons yesterday and that my apology was viewed by some Honourable Members as less than unequivocal.

Since I am unable to be in the House of Commons personally to make any clarification, I would like to inform the House, through you, that the statement made on March 5, was intended by me to be an unequivocal apology. If doubts remain I would like now to remove them by asking you to convey to Members of the House of Commons my unequivocal apology.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rossi: I would simply like to thank you, Mr. Speaker.