

acknowledged receipt of application for a grade separation at the Canadian National Railways' tracks at Woodroffe Avenue in the township of Nepean in December 1972. The application under Part II of the Railway Relocation and Crossing Act was received February 12, 1976 and is now being dealt with.

TAX REBATE ON EXCAVATION AND TRENCHING EQUIPMENT

Question No. 4,059—**Mr. Hnatyshyn:**

Is the government considering a rebate tax on equipment purchased for use in an excavation and trenching business when such equipment is used for farm and/or municipal sewer and water?

Mr. Jacques L. Trudel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): The government is not considering the introduction of such a rebate. Changes in taxation measures are normally considered in the context of budgetary policy and announced accordingly.

FEDERAL TAXES IN QUEBEC ON GASOLINE, ETC.

Question No. 4,096—**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):**

1. What are the federal taxes in Quebec on each gallon of (a) gasoline (b) heating fuel (c) natural gas excluding the 12 per cent excise tax?

2. During the past two years, how much did the government receive from such taxes?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): 1. (a) Gasoline Grade 1, Sales Tax, 4.435 cents; Gasoline Grade 2, Sales Tax, 3.9 cents; Gasoline, low lead, Sales Tax, 3.9 cents; Gasoline, no lead, Sales Tax, 3.9 cents. (b) None. (c) None.

2. This information cannot be obtained because refiners consolidate tax payments on all products.

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[Translation]

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if question No. 3,531 could be made an order for return, this document could be tabled immediately.

[Text]

PEI DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Question No. 3,531—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

With reference to the PEI Development Plan for each programme and project covered, what (a) were the actual expenditures in each year of Phase 1 (b) are the anticipated expenditures in the first two years of Phase 2?

Return tabled.

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[English]

STARRED QUESTION

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred question No. 3,677?

Productivity and Trade

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

*RESTORATION OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S OFFICE IN EAST BLOCK

Question No. 3,677—**Mr. Fairweather:**

1. Will the government restore the office of Sir John A. Macdonald in the East Block as near as may be to its original condition?

2. Will the government open this historic office to the Canadian people?

[English]

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the answer to both paragraphs 1. and 2. is yes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO IMPROVE CANADA'S TRADING POSITION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe) moved:

That this House deplores the lack of any effective government policies to deal with Canada's worsening trade performance and, especially, the government's failure to provide meaningful incentives to increase productivity and thereby strengthen the competitive position of Canada's finished and manufactured products.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in opening the debate on the motion before us today, I suggest to hon. members that there are really three separate questions to be dealt with in today's debate. The first is the worsening trade performance of the nation in relation to our trading partners around the world. The second is the question of the lack of productivity in our industry and the fact that the government has not provided meaningful incentives to increase productivity in the nation. Third, the competitive position of Canada's manufactured products is something that must be constantly before this House in that at the present time our manufactured export trade is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

Before getting into more formal remarks, I should mention that I am sorry the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Jamieson) is not with us today. I understand he is touring the far east. We wish him well on that trade venture, but I point out that in view of the fact that the government gave us notice only on Thursday that this was to be an opposition day, we had no alternative but to bring on a debate with respect to trade. We think it is one of the most urgent economic issues facing this nation today. In this connection, I am pleased to see that the former minister of industry, trade and commerce, the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie), is with us. Perhaps he will be joining in the debate, because there are many unanswered questions still on the order paper from when he was minister of industry, trade and commerce. I am also pleased to see that the