Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As an indication of Canada's interest in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, is the government making any progress in negotiating Canada out of the agreement for the maintenance of Bomarc missiles on Canadian soil?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That question is, of course, not related to the question of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Knowles: It is a good question, though.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON PENSION COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Has the minister anything further to report to the house with respect to Mr. Justice Woods' report on the administration of the Canadian Pension Commission?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon, gentleman for asking that question, because it permits me to apologize to the house for misinforming the members of the house some few weeks ago when I answered a similar question and indicated that the report was completed but there was a delay in the matter of printing. The error occurred in relaying this information to me. Of course I take responsibility for perpetuating the error, but there was no intention on the part of anyone to mislead the house, and I apologize for passing on that misinformation. Yesterday I communicated directly with Mr. Justice Woods in his office in Regina, and he informs me that it will be May before the report can be completed.

OLD AGE SECURITY

INCOME SUPPLEMENT—DISTRIBUTION OF EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister assure us that every recipient of old age security will receive a copy of the explanatory booklet on the guaranteed income supplement?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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Mr. Chatterton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In that case, can the minister tell us why it was necessary to spend \$380,000 to advertise this measure?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend realizes that repetition is an important part of education.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles: Especially when you have a weak case.

INCOME TAX

REPORTED EVASION OF CORPORATION TAX BY NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. I would ask the minister whether his attention has been drawn to an article headed "United States Oil Colonists Outwit Walter Gordon", written by one James Gray, wherein it is indicated that the \$250 million natural gas industry is able to juggle its books, in effect, so that it escapes the payment of corporate taxes. If the minister's attention has been drawn to this matter, has he any comment to make on the action his department has taken?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have not read the article, but I will read it. I would like to assure the hon. member that not many people in Canada avoid paying income tax that is due to the crown, and as long as I am Minister of National Revenue I undertake to try to collect all the revenue that is due to the crown under the legislation enacted by this house.

Mr. Howard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister would mind inquiring in detail into the allegations contained in the article if I send it over to him, because it points out that there are certain arrangements between companies which exist in the United States and have subsidiaries in Canada, and that this book juggling that takes place is on an international scale.

Mr. Benson: I would be very interested in reading the article. I can assure the hon. member that I will not only look into it, but if there is any illegal book juggling we will certainly take action in this regard.