

*Excise Tax*

[Text]

## SOVIET DIPLOMATS—TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Question No. 1,607—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Since the answer to question No. 31 was prepared, how many additional requests have been received from Soviet diplomats to travel outside the National Capital Region and, in each case, what was the (a) name of the diplomat (b) date of the trip (c) destination of the trip (d) duration of the trip (e) purpose of the trip (f) mode of transportation used?

Return tabled.

[English]

**Mr. Collette:** Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Madam Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## EXCISE TAX ACT AND EXCISE ACT

## MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Wednesday, June 10, consideration of Bill C-57, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to provide for a revenue tax in respect of petroleum and gas, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

**Madam Speaker:** On May 26 I expressed some doubt as to the acceptability of motion No. 10 in the name of the hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis). On June 10 the hon. member presented argument in support of that motion. I must confess to the hon. member that on procedural grounds he did not convince the Chair his motion ought to be put to the House. Therefore I regrettably confirm my comments of May 26 and rule the motion out of order.

Motions Nos. 27 and 28 could be grouped for debate, and a vote on motion No. 27 will dispose of motion No. 28.

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South)** moved:

Motion No. 27.

That Bill C-57, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to provide for a revenue tax in respect of petroleum and gas, be amended in Clause 29 by striking out line 9 at page 39 and substituting the following therefor:

"apparatus for use in".

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap)** moved:

Motion No. 28.

That Bill C-57, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to provide for a revenue tax in respect of petroleum and gas, be amended in Clause 29 by striking out line 9 at page 39 and substituting the following therefor:

"apparatus that are used in".

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, I will speak very briefly on this motion. Because of the unrealistic time limit imposed upon this debate, I think we should discuss the significant amendments with respect to the petroleum and gas tax.

This particular amendment will broaden the exemption for universities and others doing laboratory work to enable them to buy utensils, equipment and instruments which may be used for some purpose other than experimental work.

If we want to encourage research and development, it is realistic to encourage it by allowing equipment which is not necessarily designed for experimental work to be purchased for use in classrooms and elsewhere. The intent of the amendment is to allow items which are used in classroom instruction and in other places to be purchased in the normal course. This would not involve any problem concerning administration. In my view, the amendment should be immediately granted by the government.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I will keep my comments very brief in consideration of what little time remains under the closure brought in to limit this debate. We want to emphasize the matter of the natural gas and petroleum tax.

This particular amendment was introduced because of the important times in which we find ourselves today. The various groups representing the technical services and the scientific community of Canada have made it perfectly clear to all hon. members of the House that, within this decade and the one following, the necessity for training individuals to participate in scientific research and to serve in a technical sense Canadian industries is absolutely mandatory.

● (1540)

We felt it important to include this particular amendment so that universities, technical schools and institutions of one kind or another would have access to research related materials at a reasonable and fair rate. It was the universities which suggested the wording change. It is a minor change but it attempts to identify not tax exemption for materials which may be used for scientific research and for educational research but materials which, in fact, will be used for that particular use. That is the reason behind this change in wording, Mr. Speaker.

We urge the government to give it consideration, again to focus the attention of manufacturers on this particular use of apparatus and also to recognize the leadership role which the federal government may play in encouraging scientific and technical research in Canada.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly to remind hon. members that the provisions which excluded some of the material used in universities from the excise tax were related to the fact that to impose or not to impose the tax on this material was dependent upon a tariff number. Everyone knows that the principles