

(a) (i) and (ii) For manuscript and design development including consultation in Ottawa, document review, preparation of English and French copy, production management from design development to mock-up \$21,122.20

(iii) For creating art boards including typesetting, galley editing, corrections, layout and pasteup for English and French copy \$6,071.00

(iv) First edition. For production of 2,000 bound tumble format copies including development of print specifications, film preparation, printing and binding \$11,040.00 Second edition. For printing of additional 10,000 copies \$13,069.12

(v) Distribution to Senators and Members of Parliament was managed within Health and Welfare Canada with no charges allocated.

(b) First edition: 2,000 copies; second edition: 10,000 copies.

(c) (i) First edition: Manifest Communications Limited; second edition: Love Printing Limited

(ii) One contract awarded in the amount of \$38,233 for the development of the first edition.

(iii) The contract for the second edition was awarded by tender.

REVIEW OF MERGERS

Question No. 322—Mrs. Collins:

1. Since the passage of Bill C-91 in June, 1986, have any mergers been reviewed by the Director of Investigation and Research and, if so, what number (a) have been reviewed (b) have been referred to the Competition Tribunal for resolution (c) are still pending?

2. Is the main focus of the Director's review on compliance?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):

1.(a) Throughout the period from June 19, 1986 to March 31, 1988, the Director of Investigation has examined 186 merger transactions in a significant fashion (defined as two days or more of examination). As of March 31, 1988, examinations were continuing on 25 of these transactions.

(b) The Director has made application to the Competition Tribunal in three instances since June 19, 1986.

(c) As of March 31, 1988, two applications before the Tribunal were still pending.

2. The Director takes a compliance-oriented approach in the administration of all the provisions of the Competition Act and in particular to his review of merger activity for which the compliance approach is particularly well suited.

The new legislation has encouraged parties to a merger to co-operate with the Director in resolving concerns he may have on the competitive impact of a particular merger. Equally, timing constraints are a factor both for the parties, who typically face a narrow window of opportunity for the purchase or sale of the assets or shares in question and for the Director,

Excise Tax Act

whose assessment of the impact of the proposed merger must be completed in a rather short time frame.

The objective of the Director's compliance approach is to offer a broad spectrum of alternatives to ensure that every reasonable opportunity is provided to business persons to structure their affairs within the parameters of the law.

The Competition Act provides the Director with broad discretion in the resolution of merger matters. There are six mechanisms, or compliance instruments available: advance Ruling Certificates (ARCs); advisory Opinions under the Program of Compliance (which may in certain instances be given in relation to a restructured transaction); monitoring (as allowed for by the three-year statutory period in which a merger may be challenged); undertakings; applications for Consent Orders; and contested applications before the Tribunal.

[Translation]

Mr. Hawkes: I suggest, Madam Speaker, that the other questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The questions listed by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the other questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

• (1120)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-117, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Nystrom: Madam Speaker, I had assumed that there would be someone from the Government leading off this debate on the Excise Tax Act. If that is not the case, then I would like to say a few words.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): We have to dispose of the concurrence motion, and then we can go into debate on third reading.

Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of Finance) moved that the Bill be concurred in.