

not see why that should take hours of research. I would think it could be replied to quickly. Then there is one final question, No. 990, concerning the imitation letters from the Prime Minister mailed during the election campaign. I would think that information could also be available in a hurry.

Mr. Reilly: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I think it lies ill in the mouth of the government House leader to berate members on this side of the House for asking questions, particularly a House leader of a government that tries so manfully to conceal so many things. Of the many hundreds of questions on the order paper, one stands in my name. It could be answered if one of the multiplicity of ministers and their satellites and secretary's secretaries would pick up the phone and call the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. I suggest to the House leader and his accomplices over there that they would do well, instead of complaining about all the questions from this side of the House, to attempt to answer some.

Mr. Speaker: Oral question period. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Hees: Let us get an answer to this one right off the bat.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

INCOME TAX

ALLEGED ISSUANCE OF INCORRECT TP4U SLIPS BY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION AND INABILITY TO DELIVER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration with regard to some 2,000 employees about whom I questioned him last week in connection with the Delorimier office of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in Montreal. Can he give the House a firm assurance that there is no discrepancy with regard to those 2,000 cases, or most of them, between the TP4U forms sent out from Ottawa and the records of the Delorimier office with regard to benefits paid and income tax deducted?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition the other day, my information was that errors that were discovered early in the year had been corrected before the TP4U slips had been sent out, and that information has been confirmed to me. In light of the press reports that came forward today and over the weekend I have asked for a second investigation of that situation. I would say that none of the people who alleged there were errors made have yet been identified. I understand there is an allegation that there is to be a meeting on Wednesday next about this matter, and I would certainly appreciate it if any of those people who have concrete or

Oral Questions

specific information which might be to the contrary would let me know so that we can take measures to correct the situation. As it stands now, my information is that any errors that were made earlier were corrected before the slips went out.

Mr. Stanfield: Arising from the minister's statement that microfilm records standing behind these cases are kept in the regional offices, can the minister give the House assurance that there are microfilm records with regard to these cases available in Ottawa or in the Montreal office?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, that information I gave the hon. member the other day stands. As I say, unless there is specific new information as a result of next Wednesday's meeting or the investigation I have caused to be undertaken, I would stand with that answer.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether it is correct that there are 100,000 instances in which TP4U forms cannot be delivered with regard to benefits paid or tax deducted because the commission has no address for the recipients where the forms can be delivered? If this is the case, is there any way in which the minister or the commission intends to help these people to be able to complete their income tax forms correctly or to assist them in claiming rebates where these are due?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, no such situation involving those numbers has been brought to my attention. I will investigate and let the hon. gentleman know.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BENEFIT CONTROL—APPEALS ALLOWED— INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES—INQUIRY AS TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether in fact the minister can inform the House if the advisory committee, which is inquiring into the investigative procedures, has looked into the specific matter that has been brought up by the Leader of the Opposition? Further, in light of the fact that over 50 per cent of the appeals that have been heard have been allowed, and in light of the fact that the committee has been out for a week and was supposed to report today, has the minister any information as to the report? Has it been submitted and are there any recommendations in this respect?

• (1440)

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): There are two or three sections to that question. During January and February in Hamilton there were 351 appeals to the board of referees, and of those 39 were allowed. During January and February in Toronto there were 964 appeals to the board of referees, and of those 121 were allowed. Thus, the total during January and February in the Toronto-Hamilton area was