

Oral Questions

time. Of course, the Hon. Member should be aware that the final package will have to be approved by the Governor-in-Council and the CTC. Until such time as all of these details can be worked out with the unions and all other parties affected, we are not in a position to say just what the full package will look like.

RETIREMENT PACKAGES INQUIRY

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, is the Government, and CN through the negotiations, looking at offering retirement packages for those who do not already qualify for early retirement benefits?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in the past CN has been very generous in its severance arrangements and early retirement packages. These kinds of arrangements are being negotiated with the unions within the context of the purchase agreement which has been put together.

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INCOME TAX

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES—AMNESTY PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue I will direct my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. In a statement made in this House on March 26 I called to the attention of the House the very successful amnesty program in a number of U.S. States to collect delinquent income taxes. Since that time has the Department had an opportunity to look into the feasibility of this program as a means of allowing Canadians who would like to do so to come forward and pay delinquent income taxes?

Mr. Bernard Valcourt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister, who is in Vancouver attending the opening of a Canadian Pacific Highway customs post in preparation for Expo 86, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question and interest. Currently in Canada there is a voluntary disclosure program which allows anyone who has failed to file a return, or who has filed an incorrect return, to make a voluntary disclosure subsequently without fear of prosecution. This matter is held in strictest confidence between the taxpayer and Revenue Canada. I want to assure the Hon. Member that I will take his concern as a representation to the Minister.

FISHERIES

RESOURCE SHORT PLANT PROGRAM

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister in his capacity as Acting Minister of Fisheries, which is one of the more important capacities he has. Hundreds of plant workers along the northeast coast of Newfoundland will not have jobs this year because plants like La Scie and Englee do not have an adequate supply of fish. The Government does have a Resource Short Plant Program but it is not working as it should. Is he prepared to review that program and make the necessary changes to ensure an adequate supply of fish to those plants and protect the jobs of those workers?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Resource short Plant Program it is my recollection that there are certain objective criteria in place and that a plant like La Scie has not met those criteria. If I understand the hon. gentleman correctly, he is asking the Government to review the program with a view to looking at those objective criteria once again. I do not know where the Minister might be in that review process, but I will certainly draw the hon. gentleman's representations to his attention as soon as he returns to the House.

NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT'S MIDDLE-DISTANCE FLEET LICENSING APPLICATION

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Newfoundland has applied for licences for a whole new middle-distance fleet which also will have an impact on fish supply. I want to know where those licences stand. Is the Government of Canada going to issue licences to the Government of Newfoundland for that new middle-distance fleet?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman would not expect me to have that kind of detail in the House today. I shall certainly bring that matter as well to the attention of the Minister as soon as he returns.

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EXPO 86

REFUSAL OF VISITORS' VISAS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the Premier of British Columbia has invited the world to come to Expo 86. That is terrific. However, for the Government of Canada that apparently does not include the Third World. Is the Minister of Immigration aware that there are cases of Canadians in my riding with relatives in Chile, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, India, the Philippines and