

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member looks at the over-all government policy, particularly the way it was reflected in the Budget, he will remember that there was a whole series of measures, including tax measures and tax simplification measures for small businesses—not for the large businesses. There were special concessions made to the small businesses in Canada, not only in terms of the rate of income tax, corporate income tax, but also in terms of the filing of the returns. It seems to me that if the Hon. Member would look with a fair mind at the Budget which the Minister presented earlier this spring, he would see that it bears out a thesis exactly contrary to that of the Hon. Member, to wit, the last Budget was very favourable to small businesses as opposed to the large businesses.

TAXATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister refers to the simplification of the tax form, which was expected by small-businessmen. Indeed, there were some improvements, at least, which are now about to be tabled. Other than simplifying the taxes which small businesses are required to pay—that does not mean diminishing but simplifying the process—can the Prime Minister identify two or three benefits which the small business sector derived from the recent Budgets in terms of reduced taxes or tax incentives? Can the Prime Minister identify two or three benefits for us?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to send the Hon. Member a copy of the Budget and of the Minister's budget speech. However, in the very asking of the question, when he says "to simplify", the Hon. Member will remember that not only was the Minister simplifying, but he was giving a very considerable number of small businesses access to the simplified and lower rates which had not been covered before.

BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my last supplementary question will, in a sense, be a revision of my previous question. The Prime Minister likely knows that there are approximately 200 areas of assistance to business as a result of tax policy—200 tax incentives, tax breaks or tax loopholes, whatever one wants to call them. Out of those 200 tax breaks for business, about three or four apply specifically to small business. I wonder if the Prime Minister could identify simply one which relates to the small business sector, out of those 200.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member says "200", surely he must have at least 50 in his mind. Perhaps he could identify 50.

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PROVISION OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
MATERIAL FOR SCHOOLS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. No doubt the Minister will be aware that for the past 13 years Canada's universities and schools have been trying to obtain access to CBC broadcasting materials which could be useful in our schools and universities across Canada, for education purposes. The Minister of Communications has stated in the past that he is working in conjunction with the Minister's Department in order to find a solution to the problem, and to examine the copyright laws. Both Departments have set up a task force, and a report was to be filed. This was some time ago, and I wonder if the Minister could explain to the House what the task force has recommended in finding a solution to the problem?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not received the recommendations of the task force as yet. However, I will be consulting with the Minister of Communications, if he has indeed received that report.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications stated in 1982 that the report would be filed in the summer of 1982.

In the United States the Government has appointed an educators' ad hoc committee on copyright law to examine the problem. They have found a solution to the problem and have now reached an agreement with the TV and radio networks in the United States so that anything can be taped off-air, held for 45 calendar days, and viewed in class any number of times during the first ten days of school. This has been accomplished without any amendments to the United States copyright laws. Will the Minister investigate and find out why we cannot find a solution to this problem now? A delay of thirteen years is not acceptable.

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is a solution to the problem. The Hon. Member must be aware that we tabled a white paper on copyright just ten days ago in which we look at all areas of copyright and how they should be changed. That paper has been referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture and will be examined there. I hope the Hon. Member will be an active participant because we would like to see the legislation approved, and the Act changed some time early in the fall.