

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I may point out to the Hon. Member that the new T-1 forms that were sent out this year allow for the legislation that is now before the House. I may also remind him that this legislation provides for a new income averaging formula that takes into account the taxpayer's income over the last few years. By indicating last year's income on the form, we are making it easier for the taxpayer who wishes to take advantage of the new income averaging formula in the future, so that he knows what amount he declared as income on his previous return.

As far as the social insurance number is concerned, the Hon. Member knows full well that for practical reasons, the use of computers in processing tax returns is increasing more and more, to prevent any mixups or mistakes and to keep the taxpayer's file up-to-date.

[English]

**Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Madam Speaker, that is an entirely inadequate answer.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Hon. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Madam Speaker, the legislation has not been passed. Parliament has not considered it. Also, it is an invasion of the Protection of Privacy Act to make available my income and the income of every other Canadian—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):**—together with our social insurance numbers. That is an enormous invasion of the privacy of every Canadian. Having anticipated the legislation, having broken the Protection of Privacy Act, will the Minister take steps to change this, to remove it from the projected law, and make sure that whatever is done in this field is done for the convenience of Canadians and not for the convenience of his bureaucrats?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I would like to remind the Hon. Member that this bill is now before Parliament. The Hon. Member knows at what stage the Bill is now. I would also remind him that the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs has had an opportunity to make a very detailed preliminary study of this Bill. As for using the social insurance number and indicating the taxpayer's income for the previous year on the tax form, we are doing this and we are providing that information to help the taxpayer get the best possible

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benefit from the provisions of the Income Tax Act, and we are not doing so for the sake of bureaucracy.

[English]

#### MINISTER'S POSITION

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member's point is an excellent one. I would like to ask the same Minister does he not himself have any concern for the privacy of individuals whose social insurance numbers and family incomes are printed on that form. And, if he is concerned, why does he allow this to happen?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I am just as concerned as the Hon. Member about the confidentiality of the information given on an income tax return. I would like to point out that the T-1 form sent to the taxpayer is sent to his home and bears his name and address. A continuous procedure is used, based on the social insurance number, in order to ensure that the information on the form goes to the person concerned, since he is the one who receives his personalized form. As I said earlier to the Member for Kenora-Rainy River, we are providing information on the amount to enable the person concerned to use to better advantage the provisions of the Income Tax Act, including the new income averaging formula which taxpayers will be able to use this year.

• (1150)

[English]

#### PROPOSAL TO PAY RENT ACCORDING TO INCOME—USE OF TAX RETURNS

**Mr. John Gamble (York North):** Madam Speaker, a short time ago the Minister of Public Works suggested it would be appropriate if tenants across Canada paid a fixed amount of 25 per cent to 30 per cent of their income for rent. I was troubled as to how the landlords would ever know what was the gross income of individual taxpayers. It now appears that the system to be employed is that these returns being dispatched across Canada disclosing income can now be used for the purpose of deciding the rent to be paid by tenants. Is that indeed part of the scheme devised by the Minister of Public Works?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I think it is always good to elaborate on an intelligent question, but if there are gaps in the process, logic may well go out the door. I think that is exactly what the Hon. Member has done. The Minister of Public Works mentioned what he thought would be a reasonable share of the individual's income that could be spent on the monthly rent. This has no connection with the amount printed on the T-1 forms which is directly related to the new income averaging