

Income Tax

3. By province, what was the (a) average hourly rate paid to employment agencies (b) average hourly rate paid to employees (c) total amount paid by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board in (i) 1975 (ii) 1976?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): 1. (a) No. (b) No.

2. Not applicable.

3. (a) Not applicable. (b) Not applicable. (c) Not applicable.

CBC—PERSONS UNDER CONTRACT TO ST. CLAIR RIVER
BROADCASTING LTD.

Question No. 408—**Mr. McKenzie:**

1. What is the total number of persons under contract to St. Clair River Broadcasting Ltd. and how many are retired public servants?

2. What was the total amount in (a) 1975 (b) 1976 paid to those under contract and how much of this was to retired public servants?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): I am informed by the CBC as follows: 1. None.

2. Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Thursday, November 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-11, to amend to statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds, be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, of course, to have an opportunity to speak on Bill C-11 and convey to the House some of the views I have and those which were expressed to me during the parliamentary recess we recently completed. I want, initially, to support my colleague, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), on his very sincere remarks of last evening in which he requested the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) to take a look at the projected use of the social insurance number.

As some members may know, I had a particular experience with a social insurance number as a result of an application made to me by a constituent to assist him. I am concerned that the Department of Finance is going to extend the use of the social insurance number. I find insurance companies now asking that their clients supply them with their social insurance number otherwise they will not handle the RRSP and other documents. This whole matter of the use of the social insurance number is going beyond its original intent.

A constituent of mine who was about 22 years of age at the time, a student at university, told me of an unbelievable horror

[Mr. McKenzie.]

story all centred around the social insurance number. He told me his wallet had been stolen. In the wallet he had his social insurance card, driver's licence and birth certificate. The individual who stole the wallet assumed the student's identity by reason of those three documents. He took employment in my constituent's name. He accumulated earnings in my constituent's name, to the extent that when the income tax year ended and my constituent filed his return, as is normal, he was contacted by the Department of National Revenue and told he had not contributed sufficient money; he had not declared all his income because the T-4 slips supplied by such and such an employer had his name, address and social insurance number on them. As a result of this, he was required for a period of two to three years to pay income tax on income he did not, in fact, earn.

In addition to this, the young man was subjected to other types of serious embarrassment. He had his driver's licence suspended, which was no fault of his. The individual using his name bounced cheques across the country and, in fact, used his card as a means of identification. He stole a car, using the young man's name, and was sent to prison. The young man ended up having a prison record, the RCMP had a file on him, and it all evolved around the social insurance number. The identifying item was the number.

I looked into the matter and established, first of all, the fact that his wallet had been stolen. I confirmed that with the local police. I then took him before a notary and had him swear a statement that the evidence he had given me was true. Then I began working from there. However, I was amazed at the difficulty we had getting this matter sorted out. I wanted to have a new social insurance number issued to this man, but it just could not be done. I was told it would take a change in the act to issue a new social insurance number. In fact, when we went to the chief of the central records of Manpower and Immigration, explaining all the details, that it was all on the record and files of the various departments I had contacted, he told me it would not be possible to issue a new social insurance number and the only way this matter could be handled was if my constituent changed his name. Can you imagine that? Can you really imagine a family gathering, where the mother says "This is Tom Jones, this is Bill Jones, this is Harry Jones, but this is Bob Smith"—all because he does not comply with some government regulation.

An hon. Member: He cannot change his SIN.

Mr. Kempling: This experience had all the aspects of Big Brother. The extension in use of the social insurance number frightens me. After about eighteen months, when we finally settled this matter, the Deputy Minister of Manpower and Immigration came to my office and we discussed the question of the social insurance number. He said that it was not to be used as a means of identification. The deputy minister told me that he had gone to a department store in Ottawa and tried to pay for some merchandise with a cheque. The clerk asked him for his social insurance number. The deputy minister replies, "No, it is not a means of identification."