

*Oral Questions***INCOME TAX**

FILING OF RETURNS BY QUEBEC RESIDENTS

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue and, failing him, the Prime Minister.

I have been informed that there are a large number of people from the province of Quebec who are failing to file their federal income tax returns. It would appear that it is part of a strategy to avoid paying taxes, or a Parti Québécois strategy to embarrass the central government. Can the Minister of National Revenue advise the House what the extent of this problem is and what he proposes to do about it?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of the problem. The tax system in this country is a voluntary tax system. People are expected to pay their taxes. Nobody particularly likes to do it, but everybody must. I am not aware of any specific problems along the lines that the hon. member has indicated.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, this is broadly known information. In view of the fact that the province of Quebec collects its own income tax separate from the rest of the provinces and the federal government, would the minister undertake to investigate this problem and report back to the House with a statement?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I will certainly take notice of the hon. member's question.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

MOBILIZATION PLANNING TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In March, 1981, the minister said, "The mobilization planning task force is expected to report later this year"—that is, later in 1981. In November, 1981, the minister said, "The work of the mobilization plan task force is not yet finalized."

At the January, 1982, Conference of the Defence Associations the minister referred to the mobilization plan and said, "... a number of options and possibilities have been examined, and they are being examined even now, as I speak."

Would the minister tell the House exactly when Canadians can expect to see some results from this drawn-out, procrastinating process?

[Translation]

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): As the hon. member for Victoria has just pointed out, Madam

Speaker, the whole question of mobilization in Canada has been under review for about a year and a half now. A task force is still carrying out this study in an attempt to reach a conclusion. There are several options, of course, as the hon. member said. Whatever they may be there is a price tag on all those options and for the time being we are trying to refine upon—if I may use the word—the conclusions with respect to a mobilization plan which should be ready within a few weeks.

[English]

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, the problem is that the minister is using the lack of a mobilization plan as the reason for turning down every other initiative which is put to him.

The report of the Senate Sub-committee on National Defence which was tabled yesterday contained among its recommendations that the government begin production immediately of a new white paper on defence, that the number of regular force personnel be increased to 92,000 by 1987, and that the Canadian forces CAST commitment be reviewed. When will the government do anything about any of these recommendations?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, we are taking into consideration all proposals from the various well-known and respected groups, such as, of course, the Senate. We have taken some action on some of the resolutions which were made during the last Canadian Defence Association convention. Last year, the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on External Affairs and National Defence made several proposals on mobilization, unification, and the reserves. We have taken action on all these proposals. I can give the hon. member information on what has been done as a result of these recommendations, what has been implemented to date, and what will be implemented in the future.

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THE ECONOMY

MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON PROJECTS TO INCREASE GROWTH

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Today is the third anniversary of the November 12 budget. In the past 90 days more than 168,000 Canadians have been laid off. During that same period of time Canadians representing every region of the country and virtually every occupation, and indeed finally Canadians in the back benches of the Liberal Party, have called for changes in the government's financial direction.

On Wednesday the minister indicated that he was prepared to consider "innovative projects intended to produce growth." Will the minister now tell us what those projects are?