

Oral Questions

[English]

NATIONAL REVENUE

COMPLEXITY OF CHILD TAX CREDIT APPLICATION FORM

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In a letter I received from her colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, the minister informed me that next year he anticipates having a much simpler form for those who will be filing only to obtain the child tax credit. He went on to point out in that letter to me that it should also be possible to develop more efficient processing routines and thus reduce the costs of administration.

I wonder if the minister would indicate whether she shares her colleague's point of view that the application form for the child tax credit has been unnecessarily complex this year and has cost the Canadian taxpayer a great deal of money in terms of additional administration?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if we are lacking questions in the House this afternoon, but this one surely is unnecessary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Bégin: I said several times in the debate on Bill C-10 back in November—the hon. member probably did not follow that debate—that we regretted having to ask the Canadian public to fill in schedule 10, which is complicated as are all tax forms, I must admit. I indicated that programs, training manuals and seminars for additional staff of Revenue Canada for the present fiscal period were already under way. That was explained very often, so the answer to the question of the hon. member is that I agree with my colleague that next year we will have a single, simple and shorter form for mothers.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ALLEGED MISLEADING ADVERTISING OF CHILD TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, the minister certainly cut up her colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, with that answer.

I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. There have been complaints from all parts of Canada and from members of this House with respect to misleading advertising about the child tax credit which has been perpetrated by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister or his department had an opportunity to investigate this advertising? Has he any report to make to the House? Is he going to do anything about it? Is the allegation that a department never acts against another department founded?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Buchanan.]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The question was to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PROTECTION AGAINST OIL SPILL FROM TANKER "KURDISTAN"

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State (Environment). With reference to the missing oil slick and the potential of a further oil leak, can the minister assure this House that should the situation get worse, he will remain in charge of the situation and carry it through to solution instead of transferring the matter to the Minister of Transport, provincial governments and municipal governments?

Should there be the problem of an oil slick working toward the shoreline and endangering the marine environment, will he assure us that what happened in British Columbia, where governments, argued about a solution to the problem, will not happen again? Will the minister assure the House that the procedure will not be followed and that he will take care of the problem instead of transferring jurisdiction?

Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Environment)): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly carry out my responsibility. But the hon. member is just being mischievous in this case because he knows very well that in the case of this particular oil spill, the coast-guard and the Ministry of Transport are the lead agencies. I have no comments about that, but I want to assure the hon. member that all concerned departments of both the provincial and federal governments are working very closely together.

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AIRPORTS

CASTLEGAR—JOB SECURITY OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. In light of the fact that the city of Castlegar terminates its control and operation of the Castlegar airport on March 31, and that the firm which will be assuming the third party contract may not be ready to participate in a very real sense on April 1, it has been suggested that employees from the Ministry of Transport at Penticton be moved into Castlegar in the interval. This would have a very disastrous effect on the employees currently in place at Castlegar who are very concerned about job security. Can the minister offer some remarks which may bring about a solution to that problem and reassure the employees at Castlegar?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that my officials did not bring to my attention