

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: I am under the impression that the first part of the hon. member's question could easily be placed on the order paper. If the hon. member simply asks the minister if he intends to make a statement on motions, the minister could answer that part of the question, after which we will move on to the next question.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have been approached by Soviet representatives. If it is in the interest of Canada to hold such a series, I am sure that the members of the House will share my enthusiasm for such a project, provided all Canadian athletes, no matter which league they belong to, can take part. I have therefore instructed Hockey Canada to invite Canadian interested parties to consider the situation.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

OFFERING BY WINNIPEG FIRM OF IMMEDIATE REBATES BUT IN LOWER AMOUNTS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Is he aware of the practice in Winnipeg where a firm offers immediate rebates on income tax returns but at an amount lower than what the Department of National Revenue would return as a particular rebate? If so, what steps will the minister take to ensure that Canadians will receive tax refunds as quickly as possible to avoid having to turn to these practitioners of usury?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I deplore the practice the hon. member mentions. I think both the provincial and federal governments should be examining ways to avoid people being victimized by such operators. On the other hand, people are free in this country to raise money on the expectation of funds or assets coming to them. It is a difficult question. The government of Manitoba could take some steps, as hon. members know, and I have some ideas as to what the federal government might do. The province of Quebec has taken a step which has been quite effective in that province. It is not only federal action which might be effective in this regard.

● (1500)

Mr. McKenzie: It is alleged that they keep between 40 per cent and 70 per cent of the rebate as a charge for providing ready cash. I believe the government should be preparing measures in co-operation with the provinces to eliminate or control this practice.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might comment.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member was implying, and if so I agree with him completely, that one thing we can do is try to speed up as much as possible the process of getting refunds out to the taxpayers. This year those refunds are going out three times as fast as

they did last year. I think that is a way in which we can help to discourage that kind of activity.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I remind hon. members that we are running short of time. I see some 25 or 30 members rising. There are less than five minutes before the end of the question period. I would hope we could limit the number of supplementaries. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond has a supplementary and will be recognized.

ALLEGED ERRONEOUS ISSUANCE OF T4 SLIP BY SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary for the Minister of National Revenue. Will the minister undertake to investigate how the Sydney Steel Corporation can send out a T4 slip to somebody who was never employed by the steel company and call themselves the employer?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to, Mr. Speaker.

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TRANSPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY PILOTAGE PROPOSAL

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position to give a favourable reply to the request of the government of Prince Edward Island that the proposal to impose compulsory pilotage at the four main ports of that province will not be done at least until such time as the representations of the government of Prince Edward Island have been sympathetically considered?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am in the very unenviable position of having to state that the four regulations concerning the Atlantic, the Laurentians, the Great Lakes and the Pacific are still on my desk. I have not yet been able to approve them because of the objections which were made on this subject. Among those who have objected is the Prince Edward Island premier.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

SUPPLYING OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES ON TAX RETURNS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. When names and addresses from income tax returns are supplied to government agencies for the purposes of those agencies are there restrictions, undertakings or agreements that those mailing lists are not to be re-released for private commercial purposes?