

Excise Tax Act

decided in that case to admit the claim of the municipality. Notification was given at the same time to logging and lumbering companies because it was felt that they came within the same provision. Later the Canadian manufacturers association, I am told, was made aware of the course of action.

When I spoke last night I stressed the fact that logging and lumbering companies had received the benefit of the ruling. I said then that my information was that in no case had a mining company made a claim and had its claim acknowledged by the department, but I want to correct that now.

Mr. Benidickson: I thank the minister for his explanation. The hon. member for Kootenay West and myself raised the question last night with respect to mining companies specifically. I saw the minister consulting his officials and I am sure he got information from them that no mining company had benefited.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The signals got a little mixed.

Mr. Benidickson: In any event, they may not have been the officials who had to do with the exemption claims. In order to complete the record, and it would only take two or three minutes, I think that the hon. member for Villeneuve might read the telegram that most of us have received from the mining companies.

An hon. Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Benidickson: It will complete the continuity of the discussion. It may be days before we get back to it.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think we have all received the telegram.

Mr. Dumas: If I may be permitted to do so, I will read the telegram. It was addressed to me and similar telegrams were sent to many other members of the House of Commons. It reads:

Note first reading and passage of budget resolution re excise tax on diesel fuel used in generating electric power. As legislation now stands tax removed for municipalities and for logging and lumbering operations. After temporary suspension tax now reimposed on fuel used to generate electricity for mining operations. This measure greatly disturbing to mining industry which regards it as discriminatory and restrictive. Power for mines in settled areas supplied from established hydro stations not subject to tax. Present regulations impose great hardship on mining operations in remoter areas entirely dependent on diesel fuel for power and on new mines awaiting hydro power. To subject such mines to this tax appears discriminatory and not in keeping with government's declared intention of encouraging northern development. Trust careful reconsideration and revision will be given to the regulation by final passage by parliament.

This concludes the telegram, Mr. Chairman, but I wish to add to what has been said in this telegram. I suppose I shall have an opportunity later.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: May I ask the house leader what the business is for tomorrow?

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we shall commence with item No. 21, which is the resolution preceding the amendment to the Children of War Dead Act; that is to go to the standing committee on veterans affairs, and we hoped it could get second reading tomorrow in order that it can be sent to that committee. Then, we shall take agriculture estimates.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.