

Speaker, is not in the contract of the letter carriers' union and since it could be starting a precedent that we would not necessarily appreciate, I wonder if the minister could inform the House if he is aware of any other verbal agreements within the corporation, and, if so, what are they and, if not, does he feel that this verbal agreement should stand?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I shall be pleased to discuss the matter with the President of the Canada Post Corporation and obtain an answer for the hon. member.

[English]

#### ACTION TO CORRECT DISCRIMINATION

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, I would have thought that by now the minister would have been informed. Possibly he should also approach the president on the fact that the corporation is stating that this would allow preference to be given to families of letter carriers for summer employment. In fact, the directive does not say "preference". It says they "will be selected from." That does not allow the postmasters any preference clause in the hiring. I would like to know, in my supplementary, is the minister aware of any action being taken to correct this discrimination and, if not, does he plan any action to correct this discrimination?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, those negotiations took place between union and management of the new Canada Post Corporation. The hon. member may not have realized that some changes have been made and that we no longer have a post office department but a Crown corporation. I shall be pleased to refer the hon. member's representations to the president of the corporation.

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[English]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

##### ARCTIC NATURAL GAS PILOT PROJECT—CONDEMNATION BY GREENLAND

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Earlier today he met with Premier Motzfeldt of Greenland. One of the items which the Premier of Greenland discussed with the minister was his concern about the Arctic Pilot Project, which is a plan to bring liquefied natural gas to the south, through the northwest passage by tanker down to the east coast. Last October the Greenland parliament unanimously condemned this project. I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment if he could tell the House exactly what steps are being taken so that these very legitimate concerns of Greenland—concerns, by the way, shared by many Canadians—are taken fully into account.

#### Oral Question

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, yes, I did meet earlier today with representatives of the Greenland government. It is true, as the hon. member has suggested, that they raised the question of the Arctic pilot project. I was pleased to see that the Greenland representatives and myself agreed that the need was for us to begin again the discussions which had taken place in the past. I believe that the last meeting took place in August, 1980. Both sides are in agreement that these discussions, which for one reason or another had not continued, should begin again.

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#### FINANCE

##### CHANGE IN APPLICATION OF SALES TAX—POSSIBLE REMISSION OF EXCESS TAX

**Mr. John Gamble (York North):** Madam Speaker, my question, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, is for the Minister of State for Finance. I would direct his attention to a comment made in answer to a question raised in this House on February 12, made by the Minister of Finance, with respect to the intended change in the federal sales tax. He indicated at that time:

There is absolutely no increased revenue from that particular change. There is absolutely no additional revenue coming to the treasury. I can assure the hon. member of that.

I wonder if the minister would care to confirm to this House that, in the event that any revenue should be generated in excess of what the treasury now obtains, there will be a remission of the excess tax.

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, I am glad the hon. member asked this question, and with the hon. member and other members of this House, I am also anxious to have an opportunity to discuss in committee the fundamental change that will consist in transferring the application of the federal sales tax from the manufacturing to the wholesale level. I also wish to confirm the answer given by the Minister of Finance, namely, that the point of this exercise is not to generate new revenue for the government but to remove a number of inequities that are present in our tax system and to make this part of our system more equitable for all Canadians. So the point is not to generate revenue, and if the tax percentage is applied to a larger amount, as we shall see in committee, the percentage of tax applicable will be reduced in such a way that no new revenue is generated.

● (1450)

[English]

##### INQUIRY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION

**Mr. John Gamble (York North):** Madam Speaker, what the minister said was that there was absolutely no additional