

Oral Questions

INCOME TAX

POSSIBLE CLASSIFICATION AS INCOME OF
COMPENSATION AWARDED TO SWORDFISHERMEN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, the question is related to the income tax problem and is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It is a very serious problem in Atlantic Canada. When compensation was awarded to the swordfishermen in Atlantic Canada it was to cover their capital loss on their fishing gear. Is it the intention of the government to classify this compensation as income and require the fishermen to pay full income tax on it? If so, what steps is the government going to take to pay the fishermen for their capital losses?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, it would not be my intention to charge people income tax on any more than is necessary. I shall look into the question for the hon. member but I cannot answer today.

Mr. Hees: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oxford on a point of order.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, I refer to my motion proposed earlier today under Standing Order 43. When Your Honour asked for unanimous consent I could not help but see a great many members on the government benches exhibiting approval, but one member on the government side has become so accustomed to saying no that he did so automatically without looking at his colleagues. I wonder if Your Honour would consider putting the question again, because I know that the government is interested in keeping consumer prices down.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that it would not be regular to put the question more than once. We must assume that it has been decided today. As an exception, the hon. member might be allowed to propose the motion again tomorrow and we will put the question a second time.

Mr. Hees: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. As Your Honour has correctly pointed out, each day at the end of the question period, because of the limited time, a number of members are not able to pose questions on behalf of their constituents. Would it, therefore, be possible to have a meeting convened, with Your Honour as chairman, of the House leaders to see if the question period could not be extended to one hour by changing the rules of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that I doubt that this would achieve the purpose he intends. I would have other suggestions to make but I shall not make them now.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader about the business of the House from now until the end of next week.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, today we will debate the Viet Nam resolution. Tomorrow, I propose to call Bill C-3, the Export Development Act, and if my hon. friend the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce succeeds in having that bill adopted on second reading we might consider Bill C-132, the Investment Review Act. Following the Export Development Act tomorrow, I am holding a priority place for the reports from the Standing Committees on Labour, Manpower and Immigration and Miscellaneous Estimates. I reserve the opportunity to bring on their reports as early as possible. With the bills I have mentioned and the reports of the committees, certainly the early part of next week will be occupied.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if negotiations on the budget have progressed to a satisfactory state with the junior partner in the coalition so that he can tell us when the budget is likely to be presented?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): There have been no negotiations whatsoever.

Mr. Hees: Is it not necessary?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I hope that I will be in a position to announce the date early next week.

• (1530)

Mr. Lewis: Tell the hon. member not to be so "smart-alecky."

An hon. Member: Tell him again.

Mr. Lewis: I will tell him again if he does not stop that kind of rubbish.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the government House leader whether the government's legislation respecting old age pensions will be on the order paper and available for consideration next week.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot offer my hon. friend that assurance, but it will be available to the House in an attractive form at an early date.

Mr. Baldwin: That is false packaging.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT—PARTICIPATION
BY CANADA IN SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved: