

things work well, he estimates that a period of two to three weeks should cover it adequately.

Let me answer briefly the other point raised by the hon. member for Provencher as to whether the \$200 will be taxable. I say no, it will not. In fact, it is a tax credit, and if the individual is not otherwise subject to income tax—as is the case of many others who receive these credits—that person will receive a cheque in the amount of the credit and it will not be taxable. In the case of those who are taxed, the amount will be deducted from their income tax which would otherwise be payable.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, I spoke to the parliamentary secretary about having a more detailed breakdown of certain of the savings and expenditures initially referred to by the Minister of Finance under this bill, and I thought it would be helpful if that schedule could be appended to today's *Hansard*.

Secondly, I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could indicate whether the Minister of Finance will be with us when we resume on Monday.

● (1602)

Mr. Martin: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could go over this table between now and Monday, and if it is in order, consider tabling it at that time?

Progress reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Notice of motion No. 1, in the name of the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette).

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The motion stands at the request of the government.

Motion No. 2 in the name of the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies).

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The motion stands at the request of the government.

Office of Education

EDUCATION

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of establishing an office of education, to conduct research in the provinces with the co-operation of the provincial governments and also in other countries, to consider the provisions of federal financial assistance for second language training in elementary and high schools and to disseminate information with a view to improving the education of Canadian youth.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is about the time of the year that this motion comes up for debate. It has been debated in the House before. It was debated in October, 1977. It is just as well to use up some time going over the arguments which were presented for and against the motion at that time. In order to put things in perspective, perhaps I should quote from some of my remarks last year:

—such an office would be responsible for the collection, organization and dissemination of information on a Canada-wide basis, as well as for the promotion and support of an adequate program of research in education . . . Regional disparities in educational opportunity are a severe and persistent problem—

Federal-provincial fiscal arrangements have a decisive influence on the ability of the provinces to meet the cost of maintaining and improving the services provided by schools in their jurisdictions . . . The essence of learning is access to information. Agencies of the federal government have the capacity for the provision of information relevant to educational planning . . . The federal government has a specific financial obligation to education, and to establish a system of equalization grants which will enable each province to provide an adequate and comparable standard of education for every child in this country.

—the minister of education of the province of Ontario . . . was in general agreement with the need for national action.

It is interesting to note at the present time that the federal government is very involved in the field of education. One argument against the motion last year was that we were proposing action in a provincial area of responsibility.

I should like to make two comments on that. On Monday of this week at the first ministers' conference, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) corrected one of the provincial premiers who referred to education as being an exclusive provincial responsibility. He said that it was not so, that the federal government also had responsibilities in the field of education. That statement of the Prime Minister was not rebutted by any of the provincial premiers.

If the motion is read carefully, one will see, even in the narrow confines of what is generally accepted as a provincial area of responsibility, that there is no intention to intervene. Basically the motion calls for an office where information would be collated, not just right across the country in all provinces and the territories, but also from foreign countries. At the present time the federal government certainly is very much involved. A year ago I referred to the various departments which are involved: the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of the Secretary of State, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Department of External Affairs, the Department of National Defence, and the Department of National Health and Welfare.