civilian strategic equipment which under the policy up until September 10 was on the prohibited list. I also asked about the violation of human rights in Iran. I would be grateful if the Minister would reply to those questions, in that what has been done is a violation of the Government's own policy. In addition to answering my first question, would the Minister comment upon the fact that Bell Helicopter in Texas last month declined to sell helicopter parts to Iran because of its confidence that they were being used in Iran's fight against Iraq and in its fight against its own people?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, so did the Government deny that back in January, 1985. An application was received, and it was believed at that time that the spare parts in question would be used for military helicopters and, as a result, the permits were turned down.

ISSUANCE OF EXPORT PERMITS

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, following on that answer, my question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. According to press reports, in September, 1985, the U.S. Commerce Department authorized United Technologies to have one of its Canadian subsidiaries ship Bell helicopter parts. Will the Deputy Prime Minister tell us whether his Government received a request from the U.S. administration to issue those export permits? Does that account for the fact that the policy on export permits was not applied strictly, as it should have been?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): I am not aware of that particular issue, Mr. Speaker. However, I can assure the Hon. Member that on the issue in question we have been assured that it was a straight commercial, civilian oriented transaction. We have been given that assurance by Pratt & Whitney. For the reasons outlined earlier, I think the issuance of the export permits was in compliance with the policies of the Government at that time.

FUTURE SHIPMENTS INQUIRY

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Deputy Prime Minister is being especially forthcoming. Perhaps we can get this out in front of a committee. President Reagan, according to this wire report, says that there will be no further U.S. arms shipments and is encouraging other countries to act in the same manner. Does that mean that there will be no further helicopter parts shipped from Longueuil to Tehran?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. gentleman is suggesting that we are taking our orders in this particular case from the President of the United States. Such is not the case.

REVENUE CANADA

REPORTED THEFT OF TAX RECORDS—ISSUANCE OF OLD AGE SECURITY CHEQUES

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Given the seriousness of the situation to which he addressed himself this morning, and especially considering the possibility of fraud occurring, will the Minister be able to announce whether Health and Welfare will be announcing new procedures for those persons receiving old age security cheques, in terms of change of address?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to check with my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and he tells me that measures are being considered. At this time I cannot say exactly what they are. Perhaps the Minister might wish to do so, but he would understand that whatever measures are taken it would perhaps be counter-productive to put them out specifically for public scrutiny at this time.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX INFORMATION

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, understanding the fact that to make everything public might not be desirable, I think the Canadian public has a right to know what new security procedures the Government is pursuing. Given the fact that the Conservative task force on Revenue Canada in 1984 indicated that it was concerned about the continuing erosion of the principle of confidentiality of tax information, is the Minister prepared to tell the Canadian public what new measures will be taken to make certain the secret information of Revenue Canada will in fact remain secret?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows and as I have already conceded, this has been the most grievous blow to confidentiality of Canadians' personal information, as far as I am aware, in the Department's history. I am not seeking to minimize it for one moment. The Hon. Member and the House have my assurance that we will be taking every possible measure to make certain that the most stringent attempts are made to try to countermand or repair the damage which has been done. I can undertake to him, perhaps on a private basis, to give him some indication of progress. I will tell the House as soon as I can, if it is proper to do so, what I have been doing.

I should like to take this opportunity to say that the Government has not diminished its commitment to the resources for the taxation side of Revenue Canada. We have in fact added over 600 person years during the last two years. We have substantial resources on audit and investigation.