

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL REVENUE****EXAMINATION OF INCOME TAX FILES BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Last week, or the week before, I asked the Minister about the existence of an agreement between the RCMP and the Minister of National Revenue concerning the examination of income tax files. Can he bring the House up to date, as he promised at that time? And could he tell us in what other kinds of instances is the agreement used?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the agreement to which the Hon. Member is referring has to do with RCMP officers investigating criminal cases such as organized crimes or other aspects of criminal activities. I should like to point out to Hon. Members that the confidentiality of tax files is paramount in such investigations; we ask for RCMP support when criminal activities are uncovered in the course of the investigation.

[English]

**PROVISIONS IN AGREEMENT**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister agree that the agreement is only in connection with files dealing with the Income Tax Act, and that there is no suggestion whatsoever in the agreement that there is power to show the files to the RCMP in the investigation of crimes other than investigations under the Income Tax Act?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to look into that particular aspect in order to give a better answer to the Hon. Member.

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[English]

**CANADA POST CORPORATION****INVOLVEMENT WITH COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES**

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post. Mr. Michael Warren recently announced that Canada Post intends to get involved in various commercial enterprises. Does the Postmaster General really think that this should be allowed, at least until Canada Post becomes capable of delivering the mail, something it is certainly not doing very well yet?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the question of the Hon. Member is quite hypothetical since the suggestions made by the President of Canada Post do not entail activities which would have priority over the

Corporation's first responsibility, which is to deliver mail. There can be no doubt that mail delivery comes first, and I do not think that the President gave the impression that the Corporation is seeking other duties which would prevent it from continuing to provide all Canadians throughout the country with postal services which compare favourably with those of any other country in the world.

[English]

**LIABILITY TO PAY CORPORATE TAXES**

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Certainly the press made it sound as though the Director General of Canada Post was serious. If Canada Post is to be allowed to intrude on private enterprise, will it use its extensive government subsidies to help one or two companies compete with the rest of the business community? Will it then pay business tax in the communities where this takes place? And will it then pay corporate taxes, as any other corporation must do?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member ought to read again the Post Office Act where the duties and responsibilities of Canada Post are clearly set out. Members on both sides of the House voted unanimously for this legislative measure and I have the impression that the Hon. Member would be well advised to read the Act over again.

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[English]

**CANADA LABOUR CODE****APPLICATION TO PUBLIC SERVANTS**

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions on the role of women within the Public Service of Canada. My first question is directed to the Minister of Labour and it is in respect of his role as the Minister responsible for occupational health of workers in Canada. As the Minister is aware, there are proposals from his Department which we hope to have in front of the House, which would give workers in the Public Service, many of whom are women, the right to come under the Canada Labour Code in matters of occupational health and safety. I wonder if the Minister can tell us whether or not the Government is willing to give the same protection under the same legislation to those workers who work for the federal Government as it gives to workers who work for the private sector under the federal regime?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) answered a similar question in the House about three weeks ago. As I recall, in his answer he referred to a sentence in the Speech from the Throne which clearly indicates that, in that