

Oral Questions

AIRPORTS

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL—BAGGAGE HANDLING ON CHARTER FLIGHTS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister explain why passengers on some charter flights landing at terminal No. 1 in Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the hon. member's question in a moment, but the Chair has serious doubts about inquiries made of a minister during the question period when a member begins his question by asking whether the government can give an explanation. If that is the type of information hon. members are seeking, I think these questions should be put on the order paper. Perhaps the question might be asked in another form.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, I am directing the question to the minister because I receive contradictory statements from officials of his department. Why is it that passengers on some charter flights landing at terminal I in Toronto which are connecting with Air Canada flights in terminal II must carry their own baggage to terminal II rather than have it handled in the normal way?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the whole matter of the No. 2 terminal and the chartered flights is extremely complex and, if the hon. member has really a specific case in mind, he should take the trouble of advising me of it in writing and I shall provide him with a satisfactory answer.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Fraser Valley East and then call orders of the day.

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AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF GROUP FARES AT PRESENT RATES—DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the intention of the airlines to reduce the extent of the group fare policy, has the minister discussed with the Canadian Transport Commission the desirability of maintaining the group fare rates presently in effect on Air Canada and CP Air, as requested by the athletic directors of the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed that matter with the CTC.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North.

[Mr. Allmand.]

INCOME TAX

ALLEGED DISCLOSURE OF IMPROPRIETY BY CONTRACTORS CONNECTED WITH STUDENT CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS—SITUATION RESPECTING POSSIBLE CHARGES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister of National Revenue has the answer to a question I asked yesterday. Is he prepared to give that answer now?

Mr. Speaker: This would require the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I can give a preliminary report to the hon. member. My officers advise that as far as they can determine, no charges have been laid at the request of the Department of National Revenue, taxation branch, against persons involved in the situation to which the hon. member referred. If he wishes to give me names, I will check further.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT AND EXCISE ACT (No. 2)

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-194, to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act (No. 2), be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this bill will implement the ways and means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, notice of which was given at the conclusion of the budget speech on February 19, 1973. Although this bill will amend both the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, most of the amendments are to provisions of the Excise Tax Act. This is the act which imposes the general 12 per cent sales tax and certain special excise taxes.

The amendments will provide some important exemptions from sales tax. One of the most important of these new exemptions is the exemption for all children's clothing and footwear. This exemption is intended to provide relief to young families with children. These families face a constant need to replace outworn and outgrown clothing. It is estimated that this exemption will benefit families with children by about \$30 million a year.

Another exemption from sales tax provided by this bill which will benefit nearly every family is the removal of sales tax from confectioneries, chocolate bars, soft drinks, juice drinks and cream and sugar substitutes. This measure will round out the existing exemption for most food products to make exempt from tax all food and drink except alcoholic beverages. This exemption will benefit