

NATIONAL REVENUE

OFFICIALS' TREATMENT OF VANCOUVER TAXPAYER

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, recently I received the following letter regarding the behaviour and conduct of officials of Revenue Canada in the Vancouver office. It reads as follows:

On Nov. 30, 1983, a payroll auditor with Revenue Canada called in person without prior notice on my tenants' residence, and demanded that she pay to him immediately the sum of \$1,498.75 for non-resident taxes supposedly owed by the owner of the property for 1983. He further instructed her to cancel all the monthly postdated cheques her husband had given to me for the one-year lease period and issue new ones less \$131.25 for non-resident taxes and send the amount each month directly to Revenue Canada Taxation. He threatened that if she did not comply to his demands that Revenue Canada would come 'after them' for collection.

(The official) went to my tenants' door without notice to them or to me, the owner. When I questioned both (the official) and his supervisor, regarding their action they explained that no letters needed to be written and that 'the Act' gave them the authority to do what they did.

I am appalled by such arrogance and lack of respect for the taxpayer.

The taxes have been paid. I heard the Minister say this morning that he felt that taxpayers should be treated with dignity, humanity, and respect. I applaud that view of the Minister, and I trust that he will look into this matter.

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VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

TRIBUTE TO SHRINERS CLUB OF PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House once again and pay tribute to the invaluable contribution of many Canadians who, in the spirit of compassion and concern for their fellow men, give generously of their time and resources in pursuit of certain social objectives which we all espouse.

● (1410)

As Canadians we enjoy a standard of health and welfare which is the envy of most others in the global community of nations. But, as we are all aware, many of our fellow citizens or their children suffer from physical and mental disabilities, which deprive them of their full measure of the many blessings the rest of us enjoy. No effort by government alone, in terms of health care and welfare programs, could ever be sufficient without the work of those who give of themselves without reward, other than that which comes with giving.

Permit me to point to one of the finest examples of this great spirit by paying tribute to the many individuals and companies who, under the sponsorship of the Shriners Club of Prince George in my constituency, assist in conducting a telethon each year which appeals for funds to sustain the child development centres in our region, and which receives a most enthusiastic and generous response. I am joined by my colleague from Prince George-Bulkley Valley in my appeal to all the residents of central and northern British Columbia to tune into the TV network this weekend and to contribute once again

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to this worthy and charitable cause. Giving is indeed good therapy.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

DEVELOPMENT OF SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION IN QUEBEC

Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean): On December 22, after the House had adjourned for the Christmas holiday, the Government of Canada announced that it had authorized the construction of the Shawinigan-Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean section of the pipeline at a cost of \$245 million. These capital investments are of the utmost importance for the area and my riding of Lac-Saint-Jean, the more so because the Government of Canada intends to use them to help this area develop economically. As a matter of fact, by changing the regional disparity index under the Regional Development Incentive Act, the Government of Canada has given the corporations willing to invest in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area the opportunity to receive a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of their capital costs, and not 25 per cent as was the case previously.

Moreover, an enormous effort has been made at the various airports in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area to consolidate our infrastructure. Also, a major investment will be made in the Chicoutimi harbour to develop a badly needed industrial infrastructure in our region. All of this, in addition to the building of the pipeline, plus the availability of the Canada Works and Career Access programs to the private sector, should make it possible for the Quebec government, if it really wants to develop the area, to use our technological and electrical advantages and offer potential investors prime rates which could convince them to create jobs for our young people. All of this, together with the make-work programs which the Government of Canada has set up over the past three years—

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[English]

TRADE

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IMPORT QUOTA ON CANADIAN NEWSPRINT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs, many of them in British Columbia, are dependent up on the export market for Canadian newsprint. In the past, a significant portion of our newsprint exports has gone to the European Economic Community. However, within the last several weeks the EEC has imposed an import quota on Canadian newsprint of 500,000 metric tonnes per year. This is fully 200,000 tonnes or 30 per cent below our traditional shipments to the EEC.