

Petitions

I ask the Prime Minister to take some action on this publicly and to continue with the Canadian tradition which has been a non-partisan one. Mr. Trudeau, whom he invited to play a role in the Commonwealth, has a distinguished reputation in this field which all Canadians recognize. All Canadians, of whatever Party, recognize that Canada has played a constructive role, not simply by going along in a pre-established consensus among western countries in these matter, but from time to time speaking out in fair and clear terms to both superpowers. If we want some movement to take place on the part of both of them at Geneva next month, I say simply to the Prime Minister that time is short. Just as he called for the superpowers themselves to take that extra step, I ask him to take that extra step himself and put before the superpowers the necessity of moving within the framework of the framework about which I have just talked.

Time is short. If we do not move in this kind of direction soon, if nations around the world do not join in on putting pressure on both the superpowers, and if we do not move on this important matter now to take that extra step for once, it may be perfectly correct to say that tomorrow will be too late.

I conclude by welcoming the Prime Minister back and by welcoming his constructive efforts at the UN and in the Commonwealth. I hope that he, too, will take that extra step which he is calling upon Washington and Moscow to take.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PETITIONS

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from a number of residents of my riding in Winnipeg. They call upon the Government to withdraw its plan to deindex family allowances in light of the fact that those changes in family benefits will hurt the poorest and middle-income families. They call upon the Government to take action quickly on this matter.

● (1600)

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of my constituents in Ottawa Centre and a number of residents of the Province of Quebec who object to the Government's plan to deindex family allowances, who point out that families who are poor will be worse off financially, that money is being diverted from children and families into the deficit and call upon this House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of the universal family allowance and to rescind the unfair tax increases.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary. I want to ask him when the Government will answer Question No. 285 that I placed on the Order Paper on February 28 and Question No. 287 that I placed on the Order Paper on March 6. I also want to ask the Parliamentary Secretary when the Government intends to reply to Question No. 313 of March 28. These are all very simple, straightforward questions, for instance, the costs of renovating cabinet Ministers' offices. As well, Question No. 319 that I put on the Order Paper on April 1 involving the cost of the Quebec City conference.

Mr. Dick: I imagine, Mr. Speaker, that those questions will be answered soon.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Parliamentary Secretary a question with regard to Question No. 386 which was asked on May 31, 1985. That question deals with a pertinent subject that was the object of a question by a member of his own Party to the Minister concerning pensions of superannuates in the Public Service of Canada.

I think it would be very useful to us on the Opposition side if the figures requested, which are not that difficult to answer, were given generously by the Parliamentary Secretary, in an answer soon to be forthcoming or in whatever term he wants to use, but for God's sake, let's get this thing out.

Mr. Dick: I shall pass on the Hon. Member's representations.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT AND RELATED ACTS

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-80, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof, be read a second time and referred to a legislative committee.