

FINANCE

REGULATIONS RESPECTING SALES TAX INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister published or given wide publicity to the regulations respecting the application of the sales tax increments during the various stages, as he promised to do earlier this session? This matter is becoming urgent, as construction tenders now being called will be affected by the future application of these regulations.

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for sending me notice of this question which, strictly speaking, falls within the purview of the Minister of National Revenue. However, I am pleased to advise him that the Department of National Revenue has given wide distribution to the amendments to the Excise Tax Act, explanatory bulletins and circulars. These have been distributed to known or potential licences, to interested associations and to individuals concerned, and have been advertised and made available in all customs and excise ports, district excise tax audit and excise tax collection offices throughout Canada.

SUGGESTED REDUCTION IN TAX ON CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. P. Antoine Belanger (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance? Could the minister tell the house whether he is considering the advisability of abolishing the 11 per cent tax on children's clothes?

[Text]

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker; not at the present time.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

PENHOLD, ALTA.—SIGNING OF PETITION BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture concerning the Penhold air base. Did the minister sign a petition that Penhold be not set aside as or made a jet training base?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I did not sign any petitions.

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

KITIMAT, B.C.—CLOSING OF OFFICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Inasmuch as today was to have been the deadline for the closing of the unemployment insurance and national employment service offices in Kitimat, B.C., has any extension been made of that deadline, or does the government intend to proceed as was originally declared?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the unemployment insurance commission have given no indication that they have reversed their decision to close this office, for reasons which have been explained.

LABOUR RELATIONS

NORRIS COMMISSION—ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHARGE LAID AGAINST HAL BANKS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has he anything to report to the house with regard to the report of the special counsel retained by him to look into the Norris commission evidence, and is he now prepared to take the house into his confidence with regard to whether the report of counsel states that there is evidence justifying the laying of charges?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have an answer to the hon. gentleman's question. Upon the advice of special counsel appointed to consider the evidence in connection with the Norris report, a charge has been laid against Hal Banks in Montreal for conspiring to commit an assault occasioning bodily harm upon Captain Walsh. Mr. Jean Martineau, Q.C., special counsel, will prosecute.

Counsel are considering other charges against the president and certain other officers of the S.I.U. arising out of the Norris report and the recent illegal strike. The charge already laid against Mr. Banks and referred to above will be pressed forward in conjunction with these other charges when counsel have come to a conclusion in regard to them and the necessary preparations have been completed.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the laying of the charge against Mr. Banks, what is the date of the alleged conspiracy