

increases by four members with each successive readjustment, at roughly ten-year intervals, and the total number of members for all provinces increases correspondingly without regard to the actual increase in population. The proposed amendment would freeze the base figure at its present 75, and the total representation at approximately 282.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,006, 1,481, 1,506, 1,539, 1,555, 1,607, 2,075, 2,310, 2,338, 2,359, 2,424 and 2,641.

[Text]

PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT AND REFUND UNDER EXCISE TAX ACT

Question No. 1,006—**Mr. Howie:**

What is the period of (a) assessment (b) refund under the Excise Tax Act and is consideration being given to a uniform three year limit in each case?

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Department of National Revenue is concerned: (a) The Excise Tax Act places no limitation on the time period of the taxpayer's operation which may be subject to assessment. (b) Prior to the Budget of March 31, 1977, the general refund provisions required an applicant to file his written application for tax refund within two years from the time the refund first became payable. It was proposed in the Budget that the period within which a person may apply to recover tax by way of refund, deduction or other payment be extended from two years to four years in the general refund provisions of the Excise Tax Act. This extension will apply to all applications, other than those which have expired on or before March 31, 1977.

In so far as the Department of Finance is concerned: Amendments to the Excise Tax Act will be considered during the continuing review of matters related to the federal sales tax. If a decision is taken to impose time limits in the case of assessments, or to further adjust the time limits applicable to refunds, the government will announce its intentions in the usual budgetary context.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE—PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Question No. 1,481—**Mr. McKenzie:**

1. How much did the government obtain from the petroleum industry through all revenue sources including corporation taxes, sales tax, excise taxes, etc. in 1975 and what has been anticipated for 1976?

2. How much of the revenue was paid out in compensation to eastern refiners?

3. For each of the same years, what amounts were invested by the government in (a) conventional exploration (b) synthetic investments (c) other energy?

Order Paper Questions

4. How much of the total revenue for 1975 and 1976 went toward general revenue?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): In so far as the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is concerned: 1. Export charge collections for 1975 were \$1,166 million, and estimates for 1976 are \$716 million. Gasoline excise tax revenues were \$233.3 million in 1975 and an estimated \$550 million for 1976. No accurate figures for income tax collections are available for this industry alone, but the mineral fuels industry, which includes coal, as well as oil and gas, provided for \$634 million in 1975 and \$490 million for the first three quarters of 1976. These figures include provincial income taxes amounting to perhaps one quarter of the total.

2. Compensation payments were \$1,450 million in 1975 and \$967 million in 1976.

3. (a) Conventional exploration expenditures by the government through Panarctic and Petro-Canada, were \$18 million in 1975 and \$41 million in 1976. (b) Synthetic investments were \$58 million in 1975 and \$87 million in 1976. (c) As for investments in other energy, many of the research expenditures of the department and other agencies could be so classified. Perhaps the largest item is Atomic Energy of Canada's Nuclear Research and Utilization program, which was voted \$86 million in fiscal 1975-76 and \$102 million in fiscal 1976-77.

4. All revenue, as is the case of taxes collected from any industry, are of course, treated as general revenue, and as such are available for other programs such as equalization. Federal equalization payments attributable to provincial oil and gas revenues amounted to \$448 million in fiscal 1975-76 and \$484 million in fiscal 1976-77.

COMMEMORATIONS OF TREATIES 6 AND 7 (ALBERTA)

Question No. 1,506—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

1. How much money did the government provide in the form of grants to assist the Commemorations of Treaties 6 and 7 in Alberta from July, 1976?

2. How many (a) government employees (b) other persons attended the Commemorations at the expense of the government and, in each case, what was the cost?

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development provided a total of \$120,000 in the form of contributions for these commemorations.

2. (a) Eight officials attended the commemoration of the signing of Treaty 6 in Saddle Lake, Alberta last summer at a total cost of \$5,922.77. Of this amount, \$4,747.24 was incurred by the officer responsible for co-ordinating the Treaty centennial celebration and includes all travel pertaining to centennial events. Several of the other officers who attended were in the Saddle Lake area for other business and the cost of their attendance at the commemoration was minimal. (b) The Department has no knowledge of any other persons who