

*Oral Questions***TAX REFORM****PROVISION AFFECTING PARENTS WITH 18-YEAR OLD DEPENDANTS**

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Finance. It concerns the Government's so-called tax reform. Although there are tax credits available for post-secondary education, parents of 18-year olds who are still in high school or unemployed lose the existing exemption of \$1,200 which is not replaced by a tax credit unless the young person is disabled. Will the Minister explain why the Government is making it harder for families with dependent young people?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is quite right. She makes the distinction between different classes as they are treated under tax reform.

The parliamentary committee will be looking at this in the next few weeks. We will see whether adjustments are justified.

I remind the Hon. Member that tuition can now be deducted by a parent, not by a student. This is a very important addition to tax reform, helping parents of students across the country.

**Miss Nicholson (Trinity):** You do not pay tuition in high school.

**SITUATION OF SINGLE PARENTS**

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, a single parent who formerly claimed the equivalent-to-married deduction for a dependent child over 18, valued at \$3,740 by the Department of Finance, can no longer do so. This is an even greater hardship for the single parent who is supporting an unemployed 18 or 19-year old and earning a very modest income. Does the Minister also intend to review that?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, in most categories of income in this country, single parents will do better under tax reform. As a matter of fact, they can be included in the more than eight out of ten Canadians who benefit from tax reform. The Hon. Member raises a specific issue within that, and I hope the committee will look at it carefully.

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**HEALTH****CHICKENS FED WITH IRRADIATED FEED**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns chickens but it has nothing to do with the earlier exchange between my Leader and the Minister for International Trade.

It deals with the fact that some 900 chickens have been fed irradiated feed at the University of Manitoba and are about to be sold to Manitoba consumers. Is the Minister aware that these chickens will not be required to be labelled in such a way as to indicate they have been fed with irradiated feed? If so, why is he prepared to allow these chickens to be sold to Manitoba consumers? Why has he allowed AECL and the University of Manitoba to contemplate releasing these chickens into the marketplace without such labelling?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that before any new product that has been irradiated can be sold on the market, certain requirements must be met. Those were made public some time ago by the Government.

I will check into the specific case he mentions. I do not have details on it, but I will do that later this afternoon.

**REQUEST THAT REGULATIONS BE AMENDED**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister does not seem to be aware that both the current labelling regulations and his proposed labelling regulations for irradiated food do not require labelling in the case of animals that have been fed irradiated food. Is he prepared to amend these regulations to ensure that any food that has had any irradiation involved in its life cycle or processing will be clearly labelled to that effect? The Minister does not seem to really understand what is going on in this experiment. It is time he got on top of it.

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, under the former regulations certain grains could be irradiated. The Hon. Member should know that. Also, certain flour could be irradiated and the Hon. Member should know that as well. As a person with a rural background, I am well aware of the food cycle and what animals are being fed.

As I said in my first answer, I will check this afternoon and report back to him.

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**SUPPLY AND SERVICES****COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR EMBASSIES—TENDERING PROCESS**

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. The Canadian On-line Secure Information and Communications System, or COSIC, is designed to provide a state of the art automation and communication system for Canadian embassies.

In light of the speculation and criticism that have arisen lately both in the press and in the House, will the Minister