

Inquiries of the Ministry

Since the incidents which occurred last year at the Quebec city income tax office seem to be happening again this year, could the minister order an investigation in that office concerning the work of income tax inspectors and assessors?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that this question was asked during the last session, and in spite of its importance I do not believe it is sufficiently urgent to ask at this time. If the hon. member would put it on the order paper I am sure he would get an answer.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, it is true that this question has been asked on several occasions last year. However, the situation is not the same this year due to certain circumstances. Since the same thing is happening and that we keep getting a great number of letters in this connection, I wonder whether the minister could not tell us at least if he intends to conduct an investigation into the matter. I feel that this problem is very urgent, because the fiscal year has just ended.

[Text]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to take this question as notice. It is obviously a question that cannot be answered without notice.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Then, could the minister consider the question as notice and give me an answer tomorrow?

[Text]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS FROM FEDERAL CONTROL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister in a position to inform the house of the outcome of the talks which were being held with the Alberta provincial authorities in connection with the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): No. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am not yet in a position to report to the house on that matter, but I am hoping I will be able to do so before too long. I think the hon. member will appreciate that there are many details which have to be looked into. There is nothing new to report at the moment.

Mr. Harkness: As a supplementary question, could the minister assure the house that before any final arrangement is made in connection with this matter, the veterans organizations, particularly those in Calgary, will be taken into consultation?

Mr. Teillet: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly give my hon. friend that assurance.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): As a supplementary question, would the minister use the occasion of his attendance at the annual convention of the Canadian Legion to make a statement clarifying the position of veterans hospitals?

Mr. Teillet: That is certainly my hope, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Terry Nugent (Edmonton-Sirathcona): My question is supplementary to a previous question asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, and I wish to direct it to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The hon. gentleman said he intended to make a statement in clarification of government policy regarding veterans hospitals. Is my correct understanding that he intends to make this statement at a Legion convention rather than in the House of Commons?

Mr. Teillet: I do not know what the purpose of that question may be, but I have said before in this house that the question of clarification is a difficult one because I have to deal with each case on its own merits. It would only be when I had a clearcut case before me that a situation could arise to which the hon. member's thinking would apply. This is what I hope to be able to do, and it was in that context that I answered the previous question.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Would the hon. gentleman inform us what answer he has given to a telegram sent to him from the Royal Canadian Legion in Calgary, which reads as follows:

Number one branch of the Royal Canadian Legion expresses strongest possible opposition to proposed Belcher hospital solution. Unable to see logic of this policy when veterans are presently being denied admission.

What answer has been given to this telegram?

Mr. Teillet: I do not have the answer to the telegram before me. I would be glad to look it up and report.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Theogene Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): In the absence of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a