

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Is it the pleasure of the House that Questions Nos. 112 and 113 be made orders for returns?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[Text]

Question No. 112—Mr. White:

What was the total number of full time employees at each job classification in the respective federal departments for fiscal 1993?

(Return tabled.)

Question No. 113—Mr. Caccia:

What is the total amount of federal public money given to the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) since its inception?

(Return tabled.)

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I ask that the notice of motion for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Shall the notice of motion stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I wish to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 33(2), because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended by six minutes.

Supply

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

• (1530)

[Translation]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY—BUDGET POLICY

Mr. Yvan Loubier (Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot, BQ) moved:

That this House call upon the government in its next budget to avoid any tax increases targeting low and middle-income taxpayers and to consider instead trimming the fat from the government, eliminating tax expenditures which primarily benefit large corporations and wealthy Canadians and collecting on unpaid tax debts owed to the federal government.

He said: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to debate this motion in the House because it is consistent with what the official opposition has been defending, since the last election, as a means of putting our finances in order, as short term or medium term corrective measures, since most experts agree, as we do, that, without fundamentally changing the system, it will be difficult to get control over public finances again.

The Bloc Québécois is of the opinion that the government must, in its upcoming budget, substantially reduce its expenditures and refrain from increasing income taxes for the middle class or low income taxpayers. The Bloc Québécois asks that the federal government undertake a complete review of the tax system in order to eliminate unfair tax expenditures and ensure that companies currently not paying taxes pay their fair share.

The federal government should, in particular, eliminate tax shelters benefiting high income taxpayers and big business. Not the measures which favour middle or low income individuals, but the real tax loopholes benefiting very wealthy Canadians and big business who have not been paying their fair share in the federal system for at least 12 years.

The government has tried to justify a possible tax increase, stating that the rise in interest rates is forcing them to do so, forcing the Liberals, when in fact this rise is in large measure attributable to their inaction in fighting the deficit in the last year. I would like to remind you that just days after the Minister of Finance tabled his first budget last February 22, Canada's credit rating was lowered significantly for the first time in five years and the interest rates demanded by domestic and foreign investors on Canadian securities increased considerably, which in turn caused mortgage rates in particular to rise.

Middle class taxpayers are past their tolerance level. Any increase in their tax burden is unacceptable, and the Prime Minister should be reminded that he made promises and commitments regarding the issue on the *Téléjournal* newscast, on October 1, 1993. He said then that he would not raise taxes during his first two years in office. This is year two.