

[English]

It will be open house then and every citizen will be able to visit our postal installations. They will then see there is nothing to hide.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

SALES TAX—INQUIRY WHETHER \$226 MILLION PAYABLE TO QUEBECKERS CORRESPONDS TO REFUND OF \$85 PER TAXPAYER

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, because of the absence of the Minister of Finance, I should like to put my question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

In view of the dispute between the federal Minister of Finance and his Quebec counterpart regarding a tax cut from which all Canadian taxpayers would benefit during fiscal year 1977-78, can the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House whether the amount of \$225 million corresponds exactly to reimbursement of \$85 to each taxpayer who nows pays taxes and paid some in 1977?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the subject matter of the hon. member's question is presently before the House. We came out of committee of the whole only last night and I am sure the hon. member is well aware of all the details of the bill. There is no change from the details which have been presented.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

I can understand the reply of the Deputy Prime Minister to the effect that the bill was passed last night by committee of the whole by virtue of an arbitrary rule, closure. Can the Deputy Prime Minister tell us whether the global amount, as well as the nature of the taxes which are the cause of the two-month dispute, corresponds exactly to the real reimbursement Bill C-56 proposes to make to the Quebec taxpayers?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the bill does contain all the information that would be of interest to the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 1978, from my seat here, I promised the Minister of Finance that I would bring him suitable technical means to enable him to reduce or abolish the tax at the manufacturing level to give Canadian taxpayers a tax reduction which would increase their purchasing power in order to stimulate the consumption of Canadian products.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask you for leave to hold my promise, and to give immediately to the Acting Prime Minister, according to the commitment I made at that time—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

REPORTED DEFICIENCY IN SAFETY FEATURES OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for whichever minister of the Crown is responsible this afternoon for reporting to the House in relation to the affairs of the Atomic Energy Control Board. It relates to certain press reports this morning which are serious enough they are causing enough disquiet and concern throughout the country that I am sure at least one minister, if not more than one, has been briefed about the problem. These reports have never been made public. They indicate that our nuclear power plants are seriously deficient in some of their safety functions. My question, to whichever minister is responsible this afternoon, relates to public access and lack of knowledge of those reports and the complaint about conditions. For instance, in December a report was made—

● (1432)

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member has a question, would he put it forthwith.

Mr. Lawrence: My question is this. In view of one of those reports, a copy of which I have, recommending that the original licensing standard for nuclear plants be seriously reviewed or substantially altered, why have these scientific and technical concerns and the reports themselves never been made public?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I will raise the question with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and he will report to the House.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, among those recommendations, one full report was considered by the Atomic Energy Control Board on March 28 and 29 of this year. My question to the minister, and I would have thought the situation was important enough for him to have been briefed on it, is this. What has been the result of this consideration by the Atomic Energy Control Board and, again, why has there been no public disclosure of the recommendations and scientific concerns?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I think that on both questions the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will want to report to the House.