

Oral Questions

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SAINT-DENIS MILITARY BASE AT SAINT-ADOLPHE-D'HOWARD

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence and relates to the closing of the Saint-Denis military base at Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard in my riding. Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with a group of citizens who are rightfully very concerned about the economic impact of the closing of this base.

Can the Minister today, first reassure my constituents by saying that the base will not be closed without a committee looking into what can be done and, second, can he assure my constituents that his Department will take appropriate measures to help them find alternate use for the existing base facilities?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the Hon. Member on taking the initiative in setting up that local committee in the first instance, which is the desirable course of action for any Hon. Member who has one of those Cadin-Pinetree lines in his or her riding, so that such local committees can act in close concert with officials in the Department of National Defence and in the Department of Employment and Immigration, and others, all of whom have been instructed to minimize any impact that might occur socially and economically within those ridings. I am pleased to assure the Hon. Member that the unemployment impact will be minimal in her riding.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

CROSBIE OFFSHORE SERVICES LIMITED

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. It is about Crosbie Offshore Services Limited, a company which owes the federal Government at least \$332,000 alone for payroll deductions withheld and not transmitted.

Is the Minister aware that in November, 1984, when that company was petitioned into bankruptcy, his Department officials seized a bank account of that company with over \$1 million in it and that they could have paid the debt owed to the taxpayers? Instead of doing that, three days later they released those funds which were used by the company for general operations without any repayment to the taxpayers of Canada. Is the Minister aware of that?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, what surprises me about this is that in the Hon. Member's desire to attempt to gain some profit from this sort of an incident—

Mr. Nunziata: Answer the question.

Mr. Beatty:—the Hon. Member would attempt to disclose income tax information related to taxpayers. As the Hon. Member, who is a former Solicitor General, would know, it would be against the law for me as Minister of National Revenue, in fact it would be a contravention of Section 241 of the Income Tax Act, to disclose in any way the confidential information relating to a taxpayer's file.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, the information I have used comes from public records in a bankruptcy proceeding in St. John's, Newfoundland.

REPRESENTATIONS INQUIRY

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Let me ask the Minister a supplementary question. Why was this done? Were any representations made that it be done, by or on behalf of his colleague, the Minister of Justice?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that it is against the law under the provisions of Section 241—

Mr. Nunziata: What are you hiding?

Mr. Beatty: I see the Hon. Member has moved from the back row to the front row so he can shout from a seat in the front row, but his interjections do not make any more sense from the front row than they do from the back.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: As the Liberals should know, this provision is in the Income Tax Act for a very good reason, and that is to protect the rights of Canadian taxpayers.

Mr. Nunziata: Quit stonewalling.

Mr. Beatty: For the Hon. Member to come into the House of Commons and to ask for me to release information which he knows I cannot release under the law, is obviously an abuse of his role as a Member of Parliament and is an abrogation of the rights of taxpayers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1500)

PENSIONS

REQUEST THAT FULL INDEXATION BE RESTORED

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare. The high percentage of retired people on Vancouver Island, combined with very high unemployment figures, means that the deindexing proposals of the Budget will hit our area of the country even harder than they