

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I believe this question could usefully be considered by a Standing Committee of the House, if additional funds were to be granted to Canadair.

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[English]

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF \$3,000 GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Is he giving serious consideration to extending the \$3,000 grant for first-time home buyers to stimulate the very important housing industry which is just beginning to roll now, in order to keep that momentum going?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, that is another interesting suggestion from a Party that throughout the debate on this subject had claimed that this was a program it did not believe in, a program which according to the Party, would never work and which was contested as soon as it was presented in the House. I am very happy that on his deathbed, as it were, my Hon. colleague is now supporting this program. I am also very happy to receive his suggestion.

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[English]

PETITION

MR. TAYLOR—CONSIDERATION OF BILL C-671

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) on Friday, April 15, meets the requirements of the Standing Order as to form.

● (1500)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. FULTON—NORTH SLOPE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I have the honour today to present a petition prepared by the Mackenzie Delta Dene Regional Council. It has over 500 signatures, primarily from Aklavik, Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson. The petition opposes development on the north slope, in particular Gulf's application for a port at Stokes Point. It supports the Berger recommendations and the National

Energy Board decision for withdrawal of the area for a national park and conservation.

I am sure the Members of the House will be interested to know that in Aklavik, with about 360 voters, over 183 people signed, in Arctic Red River, with only 52 voters, over 50 people signed, and in Fort McPherson, with 432 voters, 293 people signed the petition.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 4,624.

[Text]

SALES TAX ON PUBLICATIONS OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Question No. 4,624—**Mr. Hawkes:**

1. Is the Minister of National Revenue aware that charitable organizations must pay sales tax on their own publications and (a) if so, is he planning to rescind this sales tax (b) if not, what measures is he planning to help the approximately 57,000 charities affected by this tax?

2. How much revenue does the Minister expect to raise by taxing public education material?

3. Was the Minister contacted by the Canadian Cancer Society regarding this matter and, if so, what was the Minister's response to their concerns?

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): 1. Yes, since January 1, 1981, the sales tax exemption formerly provided in the Excise Tax Act for goods enumerated under tariff item 69605-1 has been repealed. A study is being conducted by the Department of Finance.

2. Revenue figures are not maintained on a product by product basis. It is therefore impracticable to reasonably estimate the amount of revenue raised by taxing public education material.

3. Yes, and the Minister informed the Society that the sales tax exemption formerly provided in the Excise Tax Act for the goods enumerated in Customs Tariff item 69605-1 was repealed effective January 1, 1981. Prior to that date several social service organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society were extended the duty and tax free benefits relating to this tariff item. The replacement provisions, i.e., Sections 12 and 13 of Part III of Schedule III to the Excise Tax Act, for many of the goods previously allowed sales tax exemption under tariff item 69605-1 are not available to social service organizations because such organizations are not among the institutions specifically named in the new exempting provisions as being entitled to the benefits. As a result, the Canadian Cancer Society was informed it was required to purchase or import such taxable printed matter tax paid.

[English]

Mr. Smith: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.