Mr. Trudeau: As to the second part of the question, we expect that the Minister of Finance will be announcing the date of the budget—

Mr. Hees: In due course.

Mr. Trudeau: —in due course.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Same old gang. No change.

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INCOME TAX

GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1973

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the answers given by the Prime Minister to previous questions and in view of the confusion that exists in the country with regard to what the government proposes to recommend, if it is in a position to make a recommendation, with regard to the 3 per cent increase in personal income tax that became effective on the first day of this year, will the Prime Minister now clarify this matter and tell the House definitely that the government is prepared to recommend to the House that the 3 per cent increase that has gone into effect will be eliminated?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that this is obviously a statement which will be made in the context of a budget, and we have said in the Speech from the Throne that the budget will be brought in at a much earlier date than usual.

INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1973—INSTRUCTION TO EMPLOYERS NOT TO DEDUCT FROM EMPLOYEES' PAY

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I follow up the last question asked by the Leader of the Opposition and ask the Minister of Finance whether he and the Minister of National Revenue discussed and was the Department of National Revenue instructed to inform employers across the country that the 3 per cent cut which was to end at the end of last year was to continue in the deductions which employers make from the pay of employees?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did, and of course the Minister of National revenue had to make some administrative decisions quite apart from whatever policy may or may not be decided by the government later on.

Mr. Lewis: In view of the fact—and I really bristle at the minister's answer—that this cannot be an administrative decision and in view of the fact that, so far as the law is concerned, the 3 per cent cut was to end on December 31, 1972, will the minister tell the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could tell his yahoo friends to be quiet for a minute.

[Mr. Hees.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: You are getting mad, Dave.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance on what authority he and the Minister of National Revenue decided to make this change in the law, particularly by the end of last year, unless it is his intention to change that law as soon as possible this year in this session?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the preamble to the hon. member's question. When it comes to the matter of the administrative responsibility for collection of taxes, that lies within the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue. If the hon. member wants to pursue the administrative aspects of that a little more closely, perhaps he might direct the question to my colleague.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance a related question. Was the Economic Council of Canada given a reference by him, by the Governor in Council, or by the Prime Minister to make a study of unemployment and, if so, can he inform the House what progress has been made?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will recognize that that is not a supplementary question. He himself said he was asking a related question. He can ask a supplementary question, but it seems to me that we have now gone quite far away from the first question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, I have some doubts whether the hon. gentleman's second or third question was supplementary to the first one. I suggest that we might continue the first round of questioning, and return to this important issue after we have heard the first question from the representative of the other party to my extreme right.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I said I was sure all hon. members would want to co-operate with you. I cannot do other than that myself.

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CLOSING OF CIP PLANT IN TEMISCAMING—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC AUTHORITIES RESPECTING REOPENING

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Is his department now negotiating with the government of the province of Quebec concerning reopening of the CIP plant in the town of Temiscaming? If so, what is the nature of these negotiations?

[*English*]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, initial negotiations with my counterpart in the province of Quebec were held this morning. I anticipate that there will be meetings with him