

Income Tax Act

[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT RESPECTING FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question.

Could he tell the House whether he received a telegram from the Montreal firemen association asking him to amend section 393 of the Criminal Code which concerns people who make false fire alarms.

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether that question is in order as it has been asked, because the hon. member is just asking whether a telegram has been received. In any case, the minister might answer briefly the question asked by the hon. member.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received that telegram and I will look seriously into the matter.

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[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

AUDITOR GENERALS 1970 REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as government House leader. Is it his intention to refer the Auditor General's 1970 report, tabled in the House on June 4, to the Public Accounts Committee and, if so, when may we expect it to be referred?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, on this subject I would be happy to have a word with the chairman of the committee and arrange to have a reference at the most convenient time.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THOSE UNDER 24—NEW PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which relates to earlier questions dealing with the very high rate of unemployment among those in the 14 to 24 years age group and with the fact that there has been a significant decline in the projected number of enrolments at universities this year of some 75,000. In view of the close to one quarter of a million young people who are unemployed, and in view of the government's special program this past summer, may I ask the Prime Minister whether any plans are now going ahead to formulate new programs to deal with this exceptional problem, having regard both to its present impact on the economy and its long-term impact?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member refers to the exceptional figures with which we are faced, and I myself said the same thing

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when answering the Leader of the Opposition. It is because this withdrawal rate from the labour force of our young people at the present time is so exceptional that I cannot say at this time what response we are going to make to it. We are trying to understand the significance of it. Does it mean that our young people are less interested in furthering their education than in previous times, or is this just a temporary situation? Does it have to do with rejection of the work ethic or study ethic or acceptance of the work ethic? I am afraid that I am not in a position to give an answer to this question and, therefore, to pose a solution at this time.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We have reached the end of the question period but perhaps the hon. member for Egmont might ask his supplementary before I call orders of the day.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the great importance of this question, as the Prime Minister has said, would he or one of his ministers be prepared within the next few days to outline to the House the methods whereby the whole question is being studied and the time frame within which some action is likely to be taken to deal with this problem?

Mr. Trudeau: I am afraid I cannot give that explanation within the next few days, Mr. Speaker.

• (3:10 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**INCOME TAX ACT**

The House resumed, from Wednesday, September 15, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray (for Mr. Benson) that Bill C-259, to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequent upon the amendments to that act, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) (page 7763).

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour has indicated, the amendment to the bill proposing second reading of the income tax amendments does indeed give us a very fertile field to discuss the economic situation generally and of course more specifically the significance of figures that were released earlier today. Just as it seems almost impossible for the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) or the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) to mention anyone going to Washington without adding the tag "hat in hand", so I find it almost impossible to refer to hon. members opposite on the monthly unemployment statistics day without using the phrase "gloom and doom" early in my remarks. Having used it once, I will try not to do so again. The fact is that, just as it is true that unemployment was too high in mid-August, so it is true that the over-all message of our economic indicators