

CHAPTER 245 NEWSLETTER

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LAST MEETING

At the February meeting Rem Walker gave a good talk on homebuilding. This was followed by two films, one on Shoulder Safety Harnesses and the other on Aerobatics.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the War Museum on Sussex Ave., Friday, March 21st at 8.00 p.m. Lionel Robidoux will give a talk on the layout and installation of light aircraft fuel, primer, and brake lines. This will include a demonstration on tube bending and installation of fittings.

We also hope to have a short audio visual presentation on spark plugs provided by Champion Spark Plug Company but this may or may not arrive in time because of the uncertainty of the mail delivery.

10% EXCISE TAX

Right about now I feel a little bit foolish. Last November when Mr. Turner brought forth his budget proposals, the news media paid a great deal of attention to those proposals which affected the majority of Canadians. I don't recall any mention of private aircraft at all. It was not until I received the December COPA Newsletter that I realized this tax proposal existed. The COPA Newsletter and Canadian General Aviation News had articles and letters to the Editor commenting on and protesting this tax.

From these sources I gathered my information and decided that the government was picking on us again. In late February I, along with all Mr. Turner's constituents, received an invitation to an annual "Town Hall Meeting". I felt that this would be a good opportunity to ask Mr. Turner why he would tax private aircraft and not power boats, motorcycles and snowmobiles.

Not wanting to get up in public and misquote the Minister, I went to Information Canada to get a copy of the text of the budget speech. The girl at Information Canada presented me not only with the budget speech itself, but with the highlights of the speech, the supplementary information concerning the budget and the notices of ways and means motions.

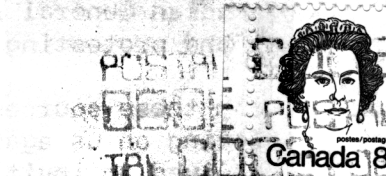
I took these home and went through them, and lo and behold and Oh my gosh, there it was. All power boats or boat motors above 20 h.p. get exactly the same tax as private planes. All motorcycles with engines larger than 250 c.c. would get taxed at 5%. Only snowmobiles escaped the tax.

Needless to say, I quickly dropped any plan to say anything at Mr. Turner's meeting. Further thought led me to believe that if a tax on energy is required, this proposal is about as fair as can be practically expected. Now in the second place I wish I'd kept my big mouth shut in the first place. Those who agreed with me in the first place will have to get along without me because, gentlemen, I changed my mind.

Well now, sports fans, hows that for a quick 180.

Jim Wallace

Lionel Robidoux and Rem Walker caused quite a stir in the Robidoux neighborhood when they wheeled Lionel's Citabria out into his driveway to rig the wings. A large group gathered to watch these two put this plane together and now Lionel has a long list of people he has promised a ride to when the rebuilding job is finished. Lionel estimates that if things go well the Citabria should be flying about the end of April.



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