

CONSUMER INDEBTEDNESS

Question No. 286—Mr. Matheson:

As of the last available date, what is: (a) the total consumer indebtedness of Canadians (b) the comparable figure in each of the last ten years (c) the annual rate change in consumer debt?

Answer by: Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):

Year ending December 31	Finance co. and retail dealer credit extended to consumers	Chartered bank unsecured personal loans*	Total of these items
1952	1,073	242	1,315
1953	1,316	308	1,624
1954	1,392	352	1,744
1955	1,629	441	2,070
1956	1,910	435	2,345
1957	1,968	421	2,388
1958	2,030	553	2,583
1959	2,205	719	2,924
1960	2,337	857	3,194
1961	2,349	1,030	3,379

*Source: Bank of Canada.

(c) The annual rate of change in the totals of the above items was 10.5 per cent.

MORTGAGE INDEBTEDNESS

Question No. 287—Mr. Matheson:

What is the total mortgage indebtedness of the Canadian home owner as of the latest available date?

Answer by: Mr. Walker:

This figure is not available but it is estimated at the end of 1959 total mortgage indebtedness, including mortgage debt on non-residential property, on rental dwellings and on owner-occupied dwellings, amounted to \$10.4 billion. Of this amount approximately one half is attributed to home ownership.

*JAMES COYNE—PENSION PAYMENTS

Question No. 288—Mr. Fisher:

Has Mr. James Coyne, a former governor of the Bank of Canada received any moneys, either on a regular basis or lump sum, from the contributory pension plan of the Bank of Canada; and, if so, how much and on what dates?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This answer I give on information from the Bank of Canada.

The Bank of Canada pension fund is a separate and distinct fund made up of past contributions by the staff and the bank, plus accrued earnings thereon. It is not the practice to disclose information regarding the details of payments made to individual retired employees out of the fund.

Questions

(a) As of December 31, 1961, finance company and retail dealer credit extended to consumers totalled \$2,349 million. Chartered bank unsecured personal loans totalled \$1,030 million. The total of these items was \$3,379 million.

(b) Comparable figures in each of the last ten years are as follows (in \$ million):

Mr. Hellyer: Since when?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am told always.

*BANK OF CANADA PENSION BY-LAW

Question No. 289—Mr. Fisher:

1. What further consideration has been given by the board of directors of the Bank of Canada regarding rule No. 17 of the bank's pension by-law which was suspended pending further consideration? (See *Hansard*, page 8979, Sept. 27, 1961).

2. Has any action been taken recently which would affect the pension position of Mr. James Coyne, a former governor?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The answer is as follows:

1. Not a matter of public record.
2. No.

*EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—SMUGGLING BY MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS

Question No. 291—Mr. Herridge:

1. Have any members of the Department of External Affairs engaged in smuggling while in Indo-China; and, if so, (a) what action has been taken against them (b) were they protected by diplomatic immunity while in Indo-China?

2. Whether or not they were formerly protected by diplomatic immunity, has consideration been given to returning these men to Indo-China so that they may be prosecuted in accordance with the laws of the country or countries concerned (Viet Nam, Laos, or Cambodia)?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The answer is as follows:

1.(a) Immediately upon receipt of information about improper activities on the part of certain members of the international