

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO MONTREAL

Question No. 1,521—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. With reference to the Prime Minister's trip to Montreal on or about January 31, 1975 (a) what exact means of transportation was used (i) was it government-owned (ii) what was the total cost to the taxpayers (b) how many persons accompanied the Prime Minister at public expense and what were all their names?

2. Was one of the items on the Prime Minister's Montreal agenda an address to a Liberal Party Fund Raising Dinner, and, if so, did or will the Liberal Party pay a portion of the cost of the trip and (a) if not, for what reason (b) if so, how much and on what date?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): 1. (a) The Prime Minister travelled by official automobile. (i) Yes. (ii) In addition to gasoline, chauffeur's expenses and overnight accommodation, \$53.55 (b) The following members of the Prime Minister's staff were in Montreal during the period January 31—February 1: P. O'Neil, Miss M. Macdonald, G. Dufault, R. Coleman, J. Moore, Miss A. McCabe; travelling expense totalling \$551.23.

2. Yes. The visit also included official meetings with the Premier of Quebec.

P.E.I. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN—PHASE 2

Question No. 3,530—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

With reference to the Public Accounts for 1974-75 on the Fund for Rural Economic Development (a) for each programme and project in PEI under the category of Social Development, what (i) was the approved programme (ii) were the actual expenditure figures (iii) are the reasons for the difference between each approved programme and actual expenditure figures (iv) happens to those funds which were not spent in the fiscal year for which they were approved (b) what are the reasons for the expenditures under Resource Adjustment and Development exceeding the approved programme figure?

Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The reply for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is as follows:

	(a) (i) Approved Program	(a) (ii) Expen- diture	(a) (iii) Revised Program
Education Capital Funds	3,790,772	2,609,108	2,752,772
Adult Education and Related Training	611,920	478,226	507,920
Housing	1,207,241	1,889,618	2,064,241
Urban Development and Com- munity Services	1,603,347	427,514	519,347
Total	7,213,280	5,404,466	5,844,280

(a) (iii); (b) Amendment No. 3 to the First Memorandum of Implementation (Schedule "A" to the Prince Edward Island Comprehensive Development Plan Agreement) provided that "... the Ministers may, by agreement expressed in writing, in order to meet the program implementation requirements during the period April 1, 1973 to the end of the first phase of the Plan and on the recommendation of the Joint Federal-Provincial Advisory Board established under Article 13 of the Agreement, from time to time re-allocate, among the components of the Summary of Cost Sharing, the funds to be provided by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and by the Province. For the

That particular amendment was carried, Mr. Speaker. It was carried in this House. It was an amendment specifically requiring reasons in order to qualify it as being a recommendation in the first place. So I maintain that at that time the representation Commissioner was fully aware of this legal requirement, and in the case of Ontario for some peculiar reason that requirement was not met.

I would further argue that lack of reasons justifying recommendations in the case of Ontario puts Ontario members at a considerable disadvantage when discussing this alleged report. In the case of all other members of parliament from other regions of Canada, they are entitled to see those justifying reasons for the recommendations and thus address their remarks to that which gives rise to the recommendations. In the case of members from Ontario who wish to address themselves to the report of the redistribution commissioners, they are denied that which gives rise to the recommendations themselves. Therefore our position as members of parliament has been somewhat eroded in relation to other members in light of any discussion that would take place in respect to this alleged report. I therefore conclude that this report is non-existent and therefore cannot be dealt with by the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we must keep clear in our minds that we are still on routine proceedings. What has been sought at this point is the necessary unanimous consent of the House to deal with a motion during today's proceedings, as opposed to tomorrow when it could be called. It is important that the Chair be advised in advance of this point of order, and I have been grateful for the participation of the two hon. members. The Chair has been greatly assisted in any event by the opportunity to consider this matter overnight.

Since we have never really got to the point where I could ask for unanimous consent, and it is now approaching ten o'clock with Questions on the Order Paper still to come, perhaps the House would permit the Chair to reflect on this matter overnight, and when the matter comes before the House on motions tomorrow, as it normally would without the necessity for consent, it may be possible for the Chair to give some indication of its views at that time. I might say that it does not seem to me that there is a great deal of difficulty about the facts leading up to the argument. What is in doubt is the effect of those facts from a procedural point of view. Perhaps all would benefit if the Chair were to reflect on the matter overnight.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether this is a first, dealing with the last item on routine proceedings as the last item of business on a government day. The following questions will be answered today: 1,521, 3,530, 3,789, 3,839, 3,840, 4,072, 4,610, 4,613, 4,775, 4,912, 4,922 and 4,940.

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