

Order Paper Questions

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I am advised by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that the answer to this question was contained in the answer to Question No. 1,191, which may be found in Hansard, January 29, 1975, page 2714.

PERCENTAGE OF BUILDING MATERIAL SALES TAX DERIVED FROM RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND FROM NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Question No. 1,349—Mr. Robinson:

What percentage of the sales tax on building materials refers to (a) housing (b) commercial construction?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I am advised by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that approximately one third of the estimated revenue from the sales tax on building materials was derived from materials used in residential construction and two thirds from materials used in non-residential construction.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

FREELANCE SPEECH WRITERS EMPLOYED BY MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Question No. 156—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):

1. In the period March 31, 1973 to March 31, 1974, on how many occasions did a Minister of the Crown employ, or otherwise arrange for the services of, a freelance or contract speech writer?

2. In each case (a) who was the Minister (b) what was the fee (c) what was the occasion of the speech?

Return tabled.

FOREIGN-OWNED FISHING VESSELS ON EAST COAST

Question No. 276—Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):

1. In 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972 and 1973 (a) what was the number of foreign-owned fishing vessels fishing on the East Coast of Canada (i) above the 50th parallel (ii) below the 50th parallel (b) what were the countries of origin of such vessels (c) what was the tonnage?

2. For the same years (a) what was the number of foreign-owned fishing vessels fishing on the West Coast of Canada above the 55th parallel (b) what were the countries of origin of such vessels (c) what was the tonnage?

3. In each case, what were the reported catches on the East Coast of the species (a) cod (b) haddock (c) halibut (d) herring (e) pollock (f) silver hake (g) ocean perch?

4. In each case, what were the reported catches on the West Coast of the species (a) halibut (b) salmon (c) cod?

5. During the same years, what was the number of Canadian-owned vessels having a fishing range in excess of 100 miles in the four areas designated, their tonnage and catch on the species designated?

Return tabled.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR MINISTER AND STAFF, 1972-74

Question No. 715—Mr. Stevens:

1. In each fiscal year ending March 31, 1972, 1973 and 1974, and for the six month period ending September 30, 1974, what was the aggregate

[Mr. Robinson.]

expenditure by the Department of Agriculture for travel abroad by (a) the Minister of Agriculture and his immediate staff (b) departmental staff (c) the staff of boards, commissions, tribunals, Crown corporations or other similar agencies reporting to the Minister (d) others whose expenses were paid in part or in whole directly or indirectly by the government?

2. In the case of an expenditure in excess of \$200 (a) what was the purpose of the foreign trip (b) what was the furthest destination (c) what is the name of the person(s) who took the trip (d) how long was the person(s) outside the country (e) what was the nature of the expenditure (f) how many others were in the party making the trip?

Return tabled.

SURVEY OF DISABILITIES OF PRISONERS OF WAR DURING WORLD WAR II

Question No. 1,360—Mr. Reynolds:

1. Did the government request J.D. Hermann, M.D., to do a survey of the disabilities of the servicemen (all three services) who were prisoners of war in the European Theatre during World War II and, if so, on what date was this report requested?

2. How many questionnaires were mailed out to ex-prisoners of war in April 1973 and what were the questions asked?

3. Has Dr. Hermann completed and reported the results of his survey and, if not, for what reason?

Return tabled.

● (1420)

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to answers to certain order paper questions being made orders for returns rather than answering them in the usual manner so that the answers appear in *Hansard*. On February 5, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) referred to this problem. At that time the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Reid) replied setting forth what he said was the procedure the government followed in deciding whether or not to make a question an order for return. I quote from the parliamentary secretary's statement which appears at page 2931 in *Hansard*:

The general practice we follow now is that all answers that will take over half a page to three-quarters of a page in *Hansard* are made orders for returns.

Mr. Speaker, I refer specifically to question No. 426 and the answer tabled last Wednesday, February 12. The question asked for information regarding appointments or employment received by candidates of the Liberal party since the general election of July 8, 1974. The answer listed the names of ten Liberal candidates who were placed on the public payroll following defeat by the electors. These names do not appear in *Hansard* because the government used the device of tabling the answer. Surely, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be contended, to cite the formula outlined by the parliamentary secretary, that the printing of these names in *Hansard* would take up more than half to three-quarters of the page. It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is a glaring example of the government tabling an embarrassing answer so that it will not appear in *Hansard*. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the government should not be able, by using the procedure of tabling answers, to hide information which shows the manner in which it rewards party faithful from the public trough.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!