

between these types of plan. For 1989, the total federal cost of tax assistance is projected to be in the range from \$5 billion to \$6 billion.

There are no statistics available on the amount of RRSP funds that has been transferred to RRIFs. Qualitative information from financial institutions suggests that the usage of RRIFs was relatively rare until 1986 when the rules governing RRIF withdrawals were simplified. Their use has apparently grown strongly since that time.

The Department of Finance has not yet made any estimate of the annual cost of allowing withdrawals from RRIFs to be extended over a period beyond the year when the annuitant attains age 90. However, in response to requests to the Minister of Finance for such a policy change, the Department has begun to consider the implications of different options for extending the allowable RRIF payout period.

PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES BY THE FEDERAL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT BANK

Question No. 165—**Mr. Kaplan:**

To the knowledge of the government, were legal fees paid to any law firms in connection with a loan made by the Federal Business Development Bank to *Pluri-Canaux Ltée* or to the University of Sherbrooke in 1987 for a home-study course to be produced by the former and, if so (a) to which firms (b) in each case, in what amount?

**Hon. Thomas Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Insofar as the Federal Business Development Bank is concerned, the response is NIL.

[*English*]

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

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, on Monday I gave the parliamentary secretary notice that I wanted an answer to Question No. 169.

I realize that it involves a search in a number of departments and government agencies with regard to contracts which have been let to legal firms of senators and former senators.

I was wondering, recognizing the parliamentary secretary may not be able to answer the question on behalf of all departments and agencies, if he could give us an interim answer from those departments and agencies that have given him or the government the information so far.

*Routine Proceedings*

• (1540)

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the hon. member that first of all the 45 days requested on his question have not yet expired.

We are doing the best we can to answer his question. I should mention my information is that it requires gathering data from some 225 people, which of course is going to be complicated, costly and difficult, but we will do our best to accommodate the hon. member.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the parliamentary secretary if he would be kind enough to check why the government has not answered Question No. 162 of October 30, 1989. I believe Your Honour will find that this is the forty-fifth day today. It involves an issue concerning the travels of the Prime Minister and a few limousines to Costa Rica.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to advise the hon. member that I do not have the information on that specific question. However, since this is the forty-fifth day, I can assure him I will do my best to track down that information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall all Notices of Motions stand?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

ATLANTIC FISHERY

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I wish call to your attention an emerging crisis which will have dire consequences for thousands of families in Atlantic Canada's fishing communities as a result of recent and anticipated fish plant closings in the Atlantic fishery.