

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Privy Council Office as follows:

1. Forty-one. These were production staff and reporters assigned to the conference on behalf of five separate services, each with its own distinct and specialized coverage requirements: English radio and television, French radio and television, and Radio-Canada International.

2, 3 and 4. It has not been customary to require the CBC to provide such details of its internal management and administration as the costs related to individual program projects or the names of staff members involved in such projects. The background to this custom is explained in detail in the reply to question No. 2,530, answered November 6, 1975.

5. (a) Six. (b) Three.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Question No. 3,730—**Mr. Herbert:**

What percentage of public servants working in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Quebec indicate English as their first official language?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): The answer is 15 per cent.

MEDICAL DOCTORS

Question No. 4,035—**Mr. Isabelle:**

1. Since 1978, did the Department of National Health and Welfare hire medical doctors from the United Kingdom and, if so (a) how many (b) according to what criteria (c) what is/was their position?

2. Were the doctors British public servants and, if so, in each case, what was his/her (a) position (b) area of specialization?

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. No.

2. Not applicable.

WHEAT CONTRIBUTION TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Question No. 4,055—**Mr. Neil:**

Was a \$4 million contribution in wheat made to the People's Republic of China and, if so, what was the price per ton paid to the Canadian Wheat Board?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Canada has supplied two \$2 million contributions in wheat to the People's Republic of China. The first contribution was 8,221 metric tons at \$231 per metric ton and 426 metric tons at \$231 per metric ton. The second contribution was 8,432 metric tons at \$237 per metric ton; for a total of 17,079 metric tons.

[English]

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

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Federal Transfers to Provinces

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT, 1977

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-97, to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, and to provide for payments to certain provinces, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Madam Speaker, the bill now called deals with fiscal arrangements which will prevail during the next five years. It reflects consultations which have taken place with the provinces beginning in December, 1980, and intensifying after the tabling of the government's proposals on November 12. During that period I met frequently with my provincial counterparts, individually, at federal-provincial conferences of finance ministers, and most recently at the first ministers' conference.

The bill also reflects the fact that for the first time members of this House were given the opportunity to become directly involved in the review of the fiscal arrangements before the legislative stage was reached. This work was done through a parliamentary task force chaired by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau). The task force held hearings in every part of the country, met with representatives of all provincial governments, and produced a substantive report last August which has helped us to understand more thoroughly the concerns of the provinces and the people most directly affected by those arrangements. Most provisions of the bill now before us are compatible with the recommendations of the task force.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, is an important one. If passed it will transfer an estimated \$105 billion to provinces over the next five years under two major programs: fiscal equalization; and established programs financing. This amount is substantially larger than the comparable figure of \$61 billion for these two programs in the five years which are now ending. The bill will also provide our federation with a new equalization formula. This will meet the needs of financially disadvantaged provinces for assistance, and take account of representations they have made as to how my proposal of last November for a new formula could be strengthened. In addition, the bill will