

of the House to give me all sorts of notice which I do not need. If the hon. member has a question of privilege, he should send written notice to my office with a brief statement.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. CORBETT—VIA RAIL—CUTBACKS IN PASSENGER SERVICE

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy Royal): Madam Speaker, I wish to place before the House two petitions containing over 900 names of citizens of the community of Chipman and other regions in New Brunswick protesting the cut-off of passenger train services in that region. Many of these folks will not be visiting with their loved ones over the Christmas holiday this year, compliments of the compassionate and little understood Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin).

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,487, 2,708, 3,064, 3,165, 3,246, 3,252, 3,283 and 3,284.

[Text]

SURVEILLANCE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Question No. 1,487—**Mr. Cossitt:**

During the past three years, has any security branch or any other branch of the government, directly or indirectly, been responsible for the placing under surveillance, electronically eavesdropping on in any way whatsoever, tapping telephones, using devices to listen to automobile conversations, etc. of any member of the House of Commons and, if so, in each case (a) what was the name of the member and the constituency (b) what was the purpose of such action (c) on what dates, by what means and in what locations was such action taken?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): In so far as the Security Service of Canada is concerned, it is not considered in the national interest to attempt to answer such a question. If such a question were answered in the affirmative, it could provide information about security operations which might prejudice their success or unnecessarily prejudice the reputation of an individual; if in the negative such information could provide comfort or aid to those involved in ongoing violations of national security.

Order Paper Questions

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR, GULF REGION

Question No. 2,708—**Mr. Corbett:**

1. Was an assistant regional director appointed for the new Gulf region directorate of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and, if so (a) what was his/her name (b) by whom or by which department was he/she previously employed (c) what are his/her qualifications?

2. Was he/she hired through a public service competition, either in-house or public, or by ministerial appointment?

3. What is the job description for the position of assistant regional director?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):

1. Yes. (a) Jean-Eudes Haché, (b) Department of Fisheries and Oceans, (c) Mr. Haché has the following academic qualifications: B.A. (Moncton University), B.Soc.Sc. (Ottawa University), M.A. (Ottawa University).

Employment qualifications: 1968-1972, Prime Minister's Office, regional desk officer, Atlantic provinces, 1972-1974, Veterans Affairs, executive assistant to the minister, 1974-1976, executive assistant to the Minister of State for Fisheries, 1976-1977, policy advisor, resource allocation branch, Fisheries, 1977-1979, manager (eastern Canada) resource allocation branch, Fisheries, 1979-1980, Fisheries and Oceans, senior staff officer, resource utilization, 1980-1981, Fisheries and Oceans, director, resource allocation.

2. Appointed through a public service competition (in-house). The assistant director general is accountable as deputy to the regional director general for the ongoing co-ordination, orchestration and delivery of regional fisheries management and support programs and activities; in order to achieve federal and departmental objectives and satisfy the mandates for the management of the aquatic and marine renewable resources of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

PURCHASE OF AUTOMOBILES FOR CABINET MINISTERS

Question No. 3,064—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. What are all the details of the methods used by the government to purchase automobiles for the use of cabinet ministers?

2. Are tenders called and, if not, for what reason?

3. Are tenders invited and, if so, who draws up the list?

4. Is it customary to permit a cabinet minister to purchase a new vehicle from a dealer of his or her choice in his or her constituency or anywhere else?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. All automobiles for the use of cabinet ministers are purchased, on behalf of departments, by DSS from franchised dealers. Depending on the availability of the vehicle requested, bids are solicited by telephone from dealers located in the immediate vicinity of where the automobile will be used. It is customary however, for ministers to choose whether the vehicle is to be purchased in the National Capital Region or in their constituency.