

Order Paper Questions
PENSION REVIEW BOARD

Question No. 875—Mr. McKenzie:

1. Are all of the positions in the Pension Review Board filled and, if not, which ones are vacant and for how long have they been vacant?

2. (a) What was the total number of review applications received by the board in the 1978-79 fiscal year (b) how many were dealt with and how many (i) were granted in pension (ii) outstanding applications were there?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):

1. No.

Vacant Positions	Since
One position on the board	April 17, 1980.
One secretary	March 24, 1980.

2. (a) 1350

(b) 1050 (13 withdrawn)

(i) 247

(ii) 1898

VIA RAIL—BROCKVILLE—LOCAL TELEPHONE NUMBER

Question No. 931—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Was the local telephone number of VIA Rail in Brockville, Ontario, disconnected and, if so (a) for what reason (b) under whose authority (c) was the Department of Transport consulted?

2. Was a WATTS line "800" number assigned in its place and, if so, is the government aware that the service rendered by such a line has resulted in dozens of complaints in the area?

3. Is the government aware that the change in number has seriously decreased service to the public and that some persons are alleging that it has taken them as long as twenty minutes to get an answer?

4. Will the government take steps to obtain the co-operation of VIA Rail in rendering a much faster service to rail passenger users in the Brockville area and, if so, what will be such steps?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): VIA Rail Canada Inc. advises as follows: Yes.

1. (a) To provide RESERVIA Service to the general public in localities served by area codes 519, 705, 613.

(b) VIA Rail Canada Inc.

(c) No.

2. The local telephone number of VIA Rail Canada Inc. was changed on March 17, 1980, to WATTS number 1-800-268-9520 with a total of 11 trunk lines connected to the central reservation office in Toronto. See 3.

3. Because of constraints resulting from training in utilization of new equipment and new personnel, VIA Rail was not able to provide the public at the outset with the quality of service they are entitled to. This has changed and of a total of 8,165 calls received on May 16, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 5,973 calls

(73 per cent) were answered within 20 seconds and 2,192 calls (27 per cent) were answered beyond 20 seconds.

4. See 3.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The questions enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I rise again this week to bring to the attention of the parliamentary secretary question No. 970 standing in my name, which deals with the names of the cabinet committees and the functions of cabinet committees as well as the names of ministers who serve as the members and second alternates on each committee.

The parliamentary secretary will remember that in question period earlier this week the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) undertook to have that information available. When I asked the parliamentary secretary about it earlier this week, he indicated he would speed up the response to this question which has been on the order paper for six weeks. In his answer yesterday the Prime Minister tabled the names of cabinet committees and members. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could indicate the reason for the delay in giving a response to the question. We have yet to receive a description of the responsibilities of the various cabinet committees as I requested.

Mr. Collenette: Mr. Speaker, I did answer this question yesterday. I understand that the hon. member was somewhat busy yesterday and must have left the chamber at three o'clock or immediately after, when the Prime Minister tabled part of the answer he seeks. I know he was not in his seat for the late show either, so I assume he was very busy and did not read *Hansard* to see that I did address myself to this point and promised to make a full answer next Wednesday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could see that questions No. 810 and 811 are answered next week as there has been some suggestion that there might be a recess. These are important questions concerning the Metric Commission. I hope they can be answered because they should be answered prior to any recess.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Orders of the day.