

when neither the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers, Loblaw's Corporation, IGA or Loeb approve of this move.

Would the minister responsible for small business advise this House whether he will or will not speak for small business, and address the concern of small business about forced metric conversion in Canada?

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member may have contacts with opponents of the metrication of scales in the retail food trade. As for me, I am convinced that I speak also for Canadian small businesses, and my contacts in the small business sector do not lead me to the same conclusions as the hon. member.

[English]

**Mr. Domm:** Madam Speaker, I would like to invite the minister to the press conference tomorrow morning to hear the small business people in Ottawa complain about the implementation of metric.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### REQUEST FOR REPEAL OF ENFORCEMENT ORDER

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister. I remind him that the last two ministers of small business in the Liberal government are no longer in this House because they would not listen to small business.

Will the minister intercede as a member of the Privy Council to repeal the order in council which forces metric on Canadian business people whether they want it or not? There are fines of up to \$5,000, imprisonment, and business lock-ups. Will the minister speak for small business, or will he follow the same line as the last two Liberal ministers for small business, who are no longer in this House because they too did not listen to small business? No one over there speaks for small business.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is quite free to hold meetings or to take part in press conferences for his own public relations. He is entirely free to take part in tomorrow morning's press conference at eleven o'clock. As concerns the question as to whether I speak on behalf of small businesses within this government, I must say that, in my opinion, the Canadian small business sector, as far as exports, the manufacture of new products and services are concerned, will benefit enormously from metric conversion in Canada.

#### Order Paper Questions

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

#### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,744, 1,857, 2,075, 2,127, 2,151, 2,164 and 2,213.

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

[Text]

#### ADVERTISING EXPENDITURES

Question No. 1,744—**Mr. Stevens:**

For the current fiscal year, what are the estimated expenditures of the Department of Agriculture for (a) advertising (b) free or subsidized publications (c) other information conveyed to the public?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** (a) \$179,290, (b) \$2,011,200, (c) \$543,950.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—LOCKEPORT, N.S.

Question No. 1,857—**Mr. Miller:**

1. In the past year, by month, what was the number of persons in the Lockeport, Nova Scotia area receiving unemployment insurance benefits?

2. For the same period, what was the amount expended for such benefits?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** The commission does not maintain statistics on the number of persons or amount of benefits for Lockeport, Nova Scotia. To provide these statistics would entail a lengthy and costly examination of individual files and records.

#### VIA RAIL—PASSENGER STATISTICS

Question No. 2,075—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. With reference to the answer to question No. 65, what are all the reasons that Via Rail Canada cannot supply the information requested?

2. Does Via Rail Canada keep any statistics anywhere on passenger travel and, if so, for what reason are such statistics not kept for Brockville, Ontario?

3. What methods does Via Rail Canada use to assess effectiveness of its service if it does not possess such statistics?

**Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** 1. VIA Rail Canada cannot supply the requested information because the previous operator, Canadian National Railways, did not keep such information. VIA became responsible for trains through Brockville in April, 1979, and they estimate that during 1979 32,000 persons boarded and 29,000 disembarked at Brockville, Ontario.

2. VIA keeps many types of statistics on passenger train travel. With the development of a new reservation and reporting system called RESERVIA, VIA will have the capability to produce detailed statistics not currently available. The reserva-