

Order Paper Questions

PUBLIC WORKS—RENTAL OF PREMISES

Question no. 49—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Do any of the following government departments rent premises of any kind from Stewart Hackett, David Soper or Deborah Lawlor (a) Post Office (b) Public Works (c) National Defence (d) Solicitor General (e) National Revenue (f) Manpower and Immigration and, if so, where are these premises located and what are the terms of the rental?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): (a) A search of the Department of Public Works' records indicate that it leases space on behalf of the Post Office Department from Deborah Lawlor at Lyndhurst, Ontario, only. This lease covers an area of 1,170 square feet in the Webster Building on Main Street for a period of five years from May 1, 1973 to April 30, 1978, at an annual rental of \$5,500, which includes all services. The search of their records has necessarily been confined to the persons named in the question, and could not take into account the possibility of these persons being shareholders of a company leasing space to this department. (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) No.

INCOME TAX—DEDUCTION OF MORTGAGE DEPRECIATION

Question No. 122—**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):**

Has the Minister of Finance studied the possibility of alleviating the burden on the small owner by allowing him to deduct the depreciation of his mortgage from his income tax return and, if so, on what date will this amendment come into effect?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I assume that "depreciation" should be construed as "interest", and hence the proposal is for the deduction of mortgage interest in arriving at taxable income. This proposal has in fact been considered, and while it has some merit, it is also subject to serious defects: it discriminates strongly in favour of home owners and against renters; it would necessitate tax increases elsewhere in the system to offset the loss of several hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue its implementation would occasion; and, because it would tend to increase the demand for housing, it would tend to drive up both house prices and mortgage interest rates, thereby substantially reducing the net benefits attributable to the measure. Were such a measure to be implemented, this would be done by means of a budget announcement.

REFRIGERATED ROLLING STOCK

Question No. 138—**Mr. Fairweather:**

What action is proposed by the government to remedy the shortage of refrigerated rolling stock and will a government-assisted rolling stock construction program be announced soon?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): The government is in continuing contact with the railways to promote the effective utilization of refrigerator equipment. As with other areas where statutory rates do not apply, the government has no plan to engage in a federally assisted refrigerated rolling stock construction program at this time.

[Mr. Basford.]

INSURANCE FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS IN ARCTIC WATERS

Question No. 148—**Mr. Forrestall:**

What arrangements are contemplated in 1974 by the government towards making available to commercial vessels in the Arctic waters insurance at a reasonable rate?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): No action is contemplated for 1974. However, as a part of larger studies on navigation in the Arctic, MOT officials are studying various methods by which assistance could be made available.

OPERATION OF SUBMERSIBLE VESSELS IN WATERS WITHIN CANADIAN JURISDICTION

Question No. 156—**Mr. Forrestall:**

1. Will the government ensure that no submersible vessels of any type is ever employed within waters inside the jurisdictional purview of our government that does not have at least one internal emergency back up method of life preservation and extension, other than simple escape capability, to permit delayed rescue in the event of entrapment?

2. Will the government give the highest priority to such absolutely mandatory requirements in 1974 and, if not, for what reason?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. When regulations are written concerning submersible vehicles they will include such fundamental requirements as an internal emergency back up system of life preservation and extension, other than a simple escape capability. Information on submersibles in use in waters within Canadian jurisdiction reveals that they all are equipped with a least one internal emergency back up method of life preservation and extension referred to above.

2. The priority given to this subject must depend on the need for regulations and requirements in other aspects of safety of life at sea and pollution prevention. The degree of study necessary to write regulations for submersibles will preclude promulgation in 1974.

STANDARDIZATION OF DESIGN OF EXTERNAL ADAPTORS TO SUBMERSIBLE VESSELS

Question No. 157—**Mr. Forrestall:**

Is it the intention of the government to initiate consideration at the international level to provide for a standardization of design and construction of external adaptors to submersible vessels to ensure universal ability to service any such vessels in terms of life extension and preservation pending delayed rescue, in the event that such vessels would become endangered outside the area of possible operational rescue ability of the nation to which such vessels would be registered, or in whose waters they would normally be operating in 1974 and (a) if not, for what reason (b) if so, on what date?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): The Ministry of Transport already has representation on an international committee known as The Special Committee on Submersible Vehicles which was created to meet the need expressed by industry to prepare regulations governing commercial submersibles. The committee will be holding its next meeting on April 17, 1974. The question of standardization of design and construction of external adaptors to submersible vehicles to ensure universal ability to service any such vehi-