

Orders for Returns

answered in a matter of minutes. I hope the government will try to answer these questions and not use the difficulty of one question as an excuse for not answering any of them.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I might say that this is not a question of the kind to which the Minister of Public Works has been referring, but I ask the government if they are aware that question No. 1,284 has been on the order paper since April 6 and has not been answered. The failure to answer this question is just a matter of ignoring information sought by the constituents of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the minister's attention to the fact that starred question No. 1,283 has been on the order paper since April 6, while questions Nos. 1,354 and 1,385 have appeared there since April 26 and 28 respectively.

[*English*]

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, I should like to—

Mr. McIlraith: Dealing with question No. 1,283—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the minister replying to the specific point of order raised by the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot?

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. With specific reference to question No. 1,283, it will be seen that by the form of the question the hon. member has made it necessary for each department and agency of government to check each employee in the whole of the government service, involving some hundreds of thousands of persons. If he had taken the time to work out the form of the question with a little more care I am sure the information which he desires, and to which he is entitled, could have been obtained in a way that would have met his request for a more speedy answer. My remarks are limited to the point raised by the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot in connection with question No. 1,283.

Mr. Starr: I am speaking to the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. In view of this technicality which the house leader has brought to our attention, instead of allowing the question to remain on the order paper since April 6 surely the government could have brought it to the attention of the hon. member and

[*Mr. Starr.*]

had the question reworded. By allowing it to stand for so long the government gives the impression they are not prepared to answer questions.

Mr. Ricard: On the same point of order, I want to inform the house that I have reworded my question, but it does not seem to have brought me any more success.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I should like to call the minister's attention to the following fact: whether they are American or Canadian officials, every civil servant is required to complete an application form under which—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has raised a point of order, but I do not believe we should embark on a debate on each one of these questions.

Mr. McCleave: As a change of pace, Mr. Speaker, may I raise a point of order and ask that question No. 1,548, which is a starred question, be withdrawn?

Mr. Starr: You cannot get an answer, so you might as well withdraw it.

Mr. Flemming: I wish to remind the appropriate minister that I have had question No. 1,424 on the order paper since May 5, and I would certainly appreciate an answer.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Coming back to my question which has been standing since April 6, No. 1,284, I should like to ask The Minister of Public Works if he will do for me what he has done for several members; that is, since an answer cannot be provided will he give me an alibi?

[*Translation*]

MOTION FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Would your Honour call notice of motion No. 145?

I ask that the others be allowed to stand.

[*English*]

CORRESPONDENCE TO, FROM AND RESPECTING
A. G. HEAKES

Motion No. 145—**Mr. Langlois (Mégantic):**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of (a) letter of May 19, 1963, from A. G. Heakes to the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Justice together with its covering letter of May 21, 1963 (b) letter from Miss Marguerite Ritchie, executive assistant to Hon. Lionel Chevrier of July 16, 1963, acknowledging the said letter from A. G. Heakes