

*Order Paper Questions**[Translation]*

—the explanation has to be very short. This is our practice and the explanation given by the Hon. Member is somewhat overly detailed. I think that it is enough.

Does the Hon. Member have a second petition?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, the petition which I have just presented was signed by 786 people.

VIA RAIL—SERVICE IN GLEN ROBERTSON

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present another petition with a similar text asking that a moratorium be placed on the cancellation of another VIA Rail service, this time in Glen Robertson; this petition was signed by 300 people.

[English]

CORPORATION TAX BREAKS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a number of residents of the City of Toronto, asking Parliament to change the appropriate laws in 1984 so that in 1985 large corporations will receive tax breaks only in proportion to the new jobs they create, and that the new jobs and tax breaks be reported quarterly to Parliament.

CALL FOR RESTORATION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and duty to present a petition today signed by approximately 1,000 residents of the Beaverton area of my constituency of Victoria-Haliburton. These petitioners believe that the Government of Canada must allow a return to capital punishment. They have been thoroughly disgusted, as have I, at the senseless murders of police officers in recent days, especially in the Province of Ontario. We must have a strong deterrent.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Government House Leader)): Mr. Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 18.

[Text]

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Question No. 18—**Mr. Howie:**

How many lawyers are employed by the Department of Employment and Immigration?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): There are five lawyers assigned to the Department from the Department of Justice.

[English]

Mr. Dick: I would ask that all other questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, can the Parliamentary Secretary indicate when the answers to Questions Nos. 96 and 97 will be forthcoming?

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, so far there have been 99 questions put on the Order Paper. Obviously his are the most recent. We have answered—

Some Hon. Members: Four.

Mr. Dick:—which is a higher percentage of answers than were given in the Thirty-first or Thirty-second Parliament at this stage.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on a different point of order, I have tabled a number of Order Paper questions, including a four-part series which involved 27 responses. To date I have heard absolutely nothing from the Government even though they included such “private” information as the number of housing starts predicted for Canada in 1985. I think the Government’s record should be better. I want to hear why he has not answered Order Paper Questions Nos. 12, 24, 27 and 18?

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the information is coming forward, and it has come forward faster than it did in either of the last two Parliaments.

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), her office has been in contact with my office. We have discussed it with her and informed the Hon. Member that the Department is working on the answers to her questions and they will be available as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: With all due respect, I understand what is going on but neither the Hon. Member for Hamilton East nor the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight) actually had a point of order. It is perfectly legitimate to ask the Parliamentary Secretary about when a question will be answered because we are at that stage. It is not in fact a point of order because we are at the stage of a motion concerning whether the remaining questions shall stand.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I have 12 questions on the Order Paper and I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary when I can expect some answers to the questions?