

*Privilege—Mr. Stevens*

Return tabled.

● (0000)

EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLICITY IN DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Question No. 562—**Mr. Symes:**

1. What were the amounts of money spent by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on publicity and/or information in each of the fiscal years 1972-73 and 1973-74?

2. What were the names and addresses of firms and individuals who received these contracts, what amounts of money were spent in each case and what was the purpose of each contract?

3. In the case of expenditures for publicity and/or information made within the Department by its publicity or information division, what was the amount in each case and the purpose of the expenditure?

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**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It relates to the fact that answers to questions standing in my name Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 51, all placed on the order paper on September 30, the first day on which questions appeared on the order paper in this new parliament, have in effect been provided to the press by someone in the government, and almost the complete text of the answers. This information first appeared in the *Globe and Mail* this week. My objection is not to the fact that this information is now available for public consumption and consideration, but to the fact that if members of parliament still do not have a right to receive the information that is given to the press, then there is something wrong with the whole system under which we are operating.

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

**Mr. Coates:** On a number of occasions this parliament has indicated its support for bilingualism in this nation. Surely, the people of this country have a right to know, through *Hansard*, what the cost and what the success of the program that the government has proposed is in actual fact. That is what I sought to secure, so that members of parliament would be in a position of being better able to examine the program and determine its strengths and weaknesses. It is rather difficult if the government refuses to give me information that somehow it is able to give to the press. I believe it is a serious matter and one to which you, sir, should give serious consideration to see that we, as individual members of this House, are protected.

● (1430)

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Stevens:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have placed starred question 788 on the order paper and it continues to be unanswered. The question deals with conflict of interest guidelines for cabinet ministers. In view of the government House Leader's statement on Friday last outside the House that there are such guidelines and that they are, to use his words, "probably the most advanced in the world", I would call on the government to produce the presumably secret guidelines without delay. Surely the government does not want to pretend that the July 18 or

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December 18 guidelines referred to by the Prime Minister on those dates are the most advanced in the world.

**Mr. Speaker:** The right hon. Prime Minister.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I may be able to throw a little light on this. I would indicate that the guidelines are those very guidelines I made public in the House when I made a statement a year ago. I can understand that hon. members do not agree with them. That is why we have referred the whole matter to members so that they may express themselves on it. But the guidelines are known; they were made public.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. Yesterday on a point of order the hon. member for Hastings (Mr. Ellis) rose and disputed a statement I made that the RCMP would only investigate members of the House of Commons if they were suspected of criminal or subversive activities. He said that he had been investigated by the RCMP and had not committed any criminal offence. I have checked into this and I find that in November, 1973 the RCMP did conduct an investigation with respect to the hon. member for Hastings because it was alleged that he had in his possession a classified document belonging to the Unemployment Insurance Commission. This could have constituted an offence under the Official Secrets Act. The RCMP did investigate but found that there was no offence and dropped the case.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Are those plumbers or snoopers?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) asked the Chair to take into account a question of privilege but did not follow it with a motion requiring action by the Chair. Nevertheless, the point is not lost.

## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

**Mr. Jack Cullen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it seems we may have been scooped by the *Globe and Mail* which only has to print in one official language.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, notice of motion for the production of papers No. 12 is acceptable to the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is it the pleasure of the House that motion No. 12 be adopted?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that the other notices of motion be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.