

Routine Proceedings

ing and related activities. Of 34 census divisions in Canada with over 20 per cent of their total employment on farms, 33 are in the prairie provinces.

(b) The government does not call into question the existing agricultural infrastructure, but the infrastructure has changed considerably over time, and it will continue to evolve in response to economic and social developments. It is the ability to manage change from the status quo that is the hallmark of rural communities and rural families. In line with the demonstrated importance of the sector, the objective of maintaining the income levels of prairie farmers and the infrastructure necessary to support the sector has been pursued by the government through unprecedented assistance. During the 1985-1991 period, net federal program payments in the prairies totalled \$9.2 billion.

Question No. 191—Mr. Mifflin:

With respect to the future of the Argentia Naval Base (a) when does the U.S. Navy plan to vacate the U.S. naval facility at Argentia (b) are there ongoing discussions and/or negotiations under way to study (i) the scope (ii) the feasibility and viability of Canada taking over this base for operational and/or training purposes (c) will this subject be considered by the advisory group on defence infrastructure (i) as part of the Canadian Forces presence in Newfoundland (ii) as a socioeconomic issue?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence): (a) No firm date has yet been established by the United States Navy.

(b) Interdepartmental discussions are ongoing concerning the future of Argentia.

(c) The subject will not be considered by the advisory group on defence infrastructure as Argentia does not belong to the Canadian Forces but rather to the United States Navy.

Question No. 197—Mr. Wood:

Will the government's contribution toward the recent joint initiative with the Ontario government, announced on November 4, 1991, and entitled the Northern Ontario Development Agreement, come out of FEDNOR funds or will it be moneys other than those allocated to the FEDNOR program?

Hon. Thomas Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): FedNor:

The Northern Ontario Development Agreement (NODA) was not funded out of FedNor funds but rather from the Ontario Regional Development Reserve. The agreement was signed on November 4, 1991 and provides \$95 million over a five-year period to encourage economic development and diversification in northern Ontario in the key sectors of forestry, mining and tourism. The agreement is cost shared 50:50 by the federal government and the province of Ontario.

Question No. 200—Mr. Peterson:

Does the government have any intention of repealing the Postal and Courier Remission Orders of 1986 and, if not, what steps is the government considering to assist the direct marketing industry?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Several groups and individuals have expressed their concerns to the government respecting the impact of the Postal and Courier Remission Orders on the Canadian mail order industry. In response to these concerns, the government has established an interdepartmental committee to fully investigate and make recommendations on the entire cross-border shopping issue, of which these two remission orders are only a facet. As this matter is still under review by the committee, the department cannot provide details of the government proposals designed to address the situation. The department will be providing the Canadian business communities with the details as soon as they are available.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The questions as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered.

* * *

STARRED QUESTION

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call Starred Question No. 99.

[Text]

***Question No. 99—Ms. Langan:**

For each year since January 1, 1988, has the government assumed any costs related to the (a) furnishing (b) decorating of the Prime Minister's residences at (i) 24 Sussex Drive (ii) Harrington Lake and, if so, at what cost?