

USE OF GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Question No. 5,549—Mr. Cossitt:

Did the Minister of Agriculture write a letter dated October 14, 1975 to Mr. Charles S. Pringle, 500 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario and, if so, did this state in part "As you know, in my position as Member of Parliament and Minister of Agriculture I read and sign secret documents and papers and it would be impossible to do so travelling on Air Canada" (a) does the Minister consider this a valid excuse for large expenditures of public funds for his use of government aircraft (b) what are the reasons that the Minister could not sign and read secret documents and papers on Air Canada (c) has the Minister evidence that his activities are under any surveillance when on board Air Canada or that secret documents or papers he might be carrying are in any danger (d) what is the description of the type of secret documents and papers that the Minister claims to carry with him?

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Yes. (a) See also 5,547, part 3c. (b) Documents were of a confidential nature. (c) No. (d) The documents relate to the responsibility of a Minister of the Crown and as a member of the Privy Council.

QUESTIONS REGARDING FIRE PROTECTION

Question No. 5,558—Mr. Cossitt:

1. In regard to the various questions presently on the Order Paper concerning possible inadequate fire protection in government owned and leased buildings, in recent weeks, have a number of different sets of answers been prepared for the questions and has the Department of Public Works ordered revisions on each occasion and, if so (a) for what reason (b) how many sets of answers have been prepared for each question and for what reason?

2. Was a meeting held by officials of the Department and representatives of the Dominion Fire Commissioner's Office at which time the proposed answers were discussed and, if so (a) on what date and in what location (b) for what purpose (c) what are the names and job designations of all persons in attendance?

3. Were the answers as finally approved transmitted to the Privy Council Office on or about Friday, May 21?

4. What are the reasons for the time taken to prepare the final answers?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): The Government takes responsibility for the answers it provides to questions and for the process involved in replying to such questions. It is not appropriate therefore to provide information about internal administrative arrangements.

NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS

Question No. 5,565—Mr. Woolliams:

1. How many countries have obtained nuclear power reactors from Canada and what are their names?

2. Does Canada intend to enforce nuclear safeguards on foreign powers who have purchased reactors if the contract and safeguards are breached and ignored and, if so, in what manner?

3. Is there any real safeguard under such circumstances?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. Two countries: India and Pakistan. Contracts for the sale of power reactors are in effect with the Republic of Korea and Argentina. Canada has also sold a 40MW (thermal) research reactor to Taiwan.

2. Canada intends to enforce safeguards through the mechanisms provided by the IAEA, and as appropriate,

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bilaterally. Safeguards required under Canada's policy leave no room for misunderstanding on the use of which Canadian nuclear exports can be put. Use for any nuclear explosives purpose is explicitly precluded. Other elements of Canadian safeguards give a high degree of assurance against any such use. Violations, should they occur, will have to face the reaction of Canada and the international community.

3. The Canadian Government strongly supports the international safeguard system and is participating very actively in efforts to improve that system to which constant technical and legal improvements are being made. Canada is also making efforts on many fronts to improve the international security situation in general in order to lessen the temptation which may be present for some countries in certain circumstances to wish to resort to a nuclear capability for national security.

USE OF CENSUS PENCILS

Question No. 5,640—Mr. Beatty:

1. Is a special pencil required for filling out the five-year Census?

2. How many pencils have been distributed with the 1976 census forms and what is the cost to the taxpayer for such pencils?

Mr. Marcel Roy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Statistics Canada reports the following: 1. It is necessary to use a soft lead pencil to complete the Census questionnaire. The Census questionnaire is processed by machine which does not readily read responses coded in ink. Manual processing by Statistics Canada of responses coded in ink is a very expensive operation—given the potential volume involved.

2. Pencils have been distributed to approximately 7,200,000 households at a cost of approximately \$198,000.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

Question No. 5,641—Mr. Beatty:

1. Is the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs aware of a memo sent on government stationery by Mr. L. V. Thornton, the Department's Director of Personnel, to all departmental employees on May 14, 1976 promoting enrollment by employees in the transcendental meditation course offered by the World Plan Executive Council for \$115 and, if so, does the Minister feel that the memorandum constitutes the promotion of a commercial enterprise at government expense?

2. What was the total number of copies sent to employees?

3. Does the Department sanction and recommend such a course and, if so, what research has been conducted by the Department in support of its recommendations?

4. Is it departmental policy to allow government facilities to be used for the promotion of quasi-religious organizations?

5. Is the Department aware that promotional material for the World Plan Executive Council represents their transcendental meditation course, the Science of Intelligence, as "the basis of solutions to all problems" including providing improved resistance to disease, development of personality and increased normality and improved relations with supervisors and co-workers and promises that "any government supporting the implementation of the World Plan, will bring integrity to its own internal organization, will develop the level of self-sufficiency of the society and will raise the dignity of the country in the family of nations" and, if so, is the Department satisfied that this material does not represent false and misleading advertising?

Mr. Art Lee (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): 1. Yes, the Minister