

Order Paper Questions

POSTAL CODE

Question No. 2,143—Mr. Herbert:

1. Has consideration been given by the Post Office Department to the use of the Japanese zip code system whereby the digits of the postal code must be written in boxes printed in the appropriate area?
2. Has consideration been given to the use of optical scanning devices that can read addresses and zip codes?

Mr. Raynald Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): 1. This system was considered during design and implementation of the Canadian postal code and the associated mechanized processing system which were designed to avoid the extra cost and effort required of the mailer.

2. Optical reading equipment is now operational at Ottawa and is being procured for installation at other major centres.

TRANSFER OF PARKS CANADA OFFICE FROM CORNWALL

Question No. 2,187—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Is the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development aware that his predecessor was described in the September 5, 1974 issue of the *Montreal Gazette* in an interview with journalist George Radwanski as "having resisted pressure to put a regional office of the Indian Affairs Department in Toronto, having put it instead in Cornwall"?

2. (a) What are all the reasons that this decision was reversed by the present Minister as contained in the answer to Question No. 1,266 (b) was pressure applied in this regard on the Minister or his Department and, if so (i) on what date (ii) by whom?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Yes.

2. (a) The office will not be relocated to Toronto but rather to a smaller centre closer to the agencies with whom we deal most frequently and more centrally located in the Province. At the time the office was originally created, it served both the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. With the creation of a separate Quebec Regional Office this is no longer the case. The relocation now proposed does not conflict with the previous statement on the subject. (b) No. The need to ultimately relocate was obvious when the Region was split into two separate operations.

* * *

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

LIP PROJECTS—CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS-CANSO

Question No. 60—Mr. Cossitt:

1. With reference to the answer to Question No. 46 of the Second Session of the 29th Parliament, which states in part that a total of \$2,823,987 was allocated under the Local Initiatives Programme for 1972-73 in the constituency of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, Nova Scotia (a) what are the names of all projects involved along with their addresses and the names and addresses of those signing the applications (b) in each case what is a detailed description of the actual project, specifically including the functions performed under the project?

2. What are the names and addresses of all persons or organizations who recommended each project in any manner whatsoever to the Department?

Return tabled.

[Mr. Sharp.]

*INCOME REDISTRIBUTION

Question No. 1,475—Mr. Herbert:

Did the Minister of National Health and Welfare state that, in 1972, the top 20 per cent of Canadians received more of the wealth produced than they did in 1967 and that the bottom 20 per cent received less in 1972 than in 1967 and, if so, what measures are under consideration to augment the programmes of income redistribution so that the trend can be reversed?

Return tabled.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to do this, but would the parliamentary secretary note starred question 2,284 in my name? It has to do with a former parliamentary colleague, in the world sense, who is in jail in the Philippines. I hope that the government will soon respond to my request for action.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to draw to the attention of the parliamentary secretary the fact that it is now over two months since starred questions 1,738 and 1,739 were placed on the order paper. In view of the very serious nature of the questions, I think all members of the House would want them answered as soon as possible.

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer the parliamentary secretary to questions 1,686 and 1,687 in my name. The only reason I raise this point of order again is not because these questions have not been answered and they are two months overdue, but because the public service gave the answers publicly despite the fact that apparently they have not been given to parliament.

On February 18 I asked for details of the involvement of the president of CMHC, or of CMHC itself, in the construction of a swimming pool at 24 Sussex Drive. This information has been denied to the House, yet last Thursday, William Teron, president of CMHC, stated publicly, when asked by a newsman, the details of this matter. It seems to me to be an affront to parliament that when a member of the House asks a question, whether on this matter or any other, an answer is continually withheld from the House for a period of two months or more, and sometimes as long as six months, yet information is leaked outside the House.

I think I have more than a point of order; I have a question of privilege. I also suggest, with regard to question 1,686 which asks about the involvement of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in the same matter, that this information is also being withheld when it could easily be given. I ask the parliamentary secretary whether I could have some assurance that these questions will be answered forthwith.