

*Order Paper Questions*

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## ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

**Question No. 5,328—Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):**

1. For each year 1970 to date, how much has the government granted under the Regional Development Incentives Act to the Constituencies of (a) Témiscamingue (b) Abitibi (c) Villeneuve?
2. In each case, what was the (a) location (b) purpose of the grant (c) amount granted (d) year it was granted?

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**Question No. 5,403—Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):**

1. How many Unemployment Insurance offices are there in Canada and where is each located?
2. How many agents of the Commission are working in each office?
3. From 1970 to 1975, how much was spent annually for the professional development of the agents in each office?

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\* \* \*

[English]

## STARRED QUESTION

**Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred Question No. 5,724?

[Text]

## \*TREASURY BOARD

**Question No. 5,724—Mr. McKenzie:**

1. What members of the Cabinet were on the Treasury Board on December 2, 1975?
2. Was the financing of the Lockheed (LRPA) deal discussed at the Treasury Board meeting of December 2, 1975 and, if so, what members of the Cabinet were present?

[Translation]

**Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** 1. The President of the Treasury Board, The Minister of Finance, The Honourable Charles Mills Drury, The Honourable Stanley Ronald Basford, The Honourable Jean-Pierre Goyer, The Honourable Daniel Joseph MacDonald. *Alternates:* The Honourable W. Warren Allmand, The Honourable André Ouellet, The Honourable Barnett Jerome Danson, The Honourable J. Judd Buchanan, The Honourable Roméo LeBlanc.

2. The inner workings of cabinet, cabinet committees, and the services rendered by support staff are traditionally considered confidential matters. Canadian precedents in this regard flowed from British practice over many years. In response to a question in the House the Canadian Prime Minister of the day on 4 February 1960 in part replied:—

"The means by which the cabinet conducts its business are traditionally regarded as its own domestic affair, and questions on the subject are normally neither asked nor answered."

A detailed answer to the question would be a departure from the traditional position that has always been taken

[Mr. Korchinski.]

that meetings of the cabinet and of cabinet committees are private and no information is given concerning attendance.

I should simply like to indicate that—

[English]

It is evident, from the number of questions we are answering so late in the session, that our office is making its best efforts to be able to clear the order paper of all questions which have been inscribed thereon.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## MEDICAL CARE ACT

## AMENDMENT TO LIMIT ANNUAL INCREASE IN PER CAPITA COST OF INSURED SERVICES UNDER MEDICAL CARE PLANS

The House resumed, from Wednesday, June 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-68, to amend the Medical Care Act, be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in the third reading debate on Bill C-68. I want to comment on some of the remarks made the other evening by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco). I am afraid he got his facts wrong, and I know he would not want incorrect facts to remain on the record of this House. I want to point out, first, that in this federal-provincial cost-sharing relationship the situation is that there are three main programs which the federal government cost-shares with the provinces, namely, medical care, which was started in 1968; hospital insurance, which started in 1958; and the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, part VI, post-secondary education program, started in 1967. In the current fiscal year federal payments under these programs will be in excess of \$5 billion. That represents 40 per cent to 45 per cent of all federal cash payments to the provinces. Most provisions of the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act expire on March 31, 1977, and the hospital service provisions expire in 1980.

The federal government is currently proposing that it replaces the current cost-sharing agreements. That is essentially the same as the proposal the federal government made in 1973 which was rejected by the provinces as being unfair to the have-not provinces. The federal government proposes that federal contributions to health care and post-secondary education should begin at about the present level and rise at a rate similar to the rate of increase in the gross national product; that federal contributions should rise independent of provincial expenditures; that the provinces should receive, after some kind of transitional period of indeterminate length, equal amounts in per capita terms; and that there should be three years' notice of any intention on the part of the federal govern-