

Questions

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): I am informed by the Indian Claims Commissioner as follows: 1. Yes.

2. (a) February 23, 1972; (b) April 3, 1972; (c) New Zealand, February 28, 1972 to March 12, 1972; Australia, March 12, 1972 to March 31, 1972.

3. To gain first hand knowledge of the nature of Maori and aboriginal claims, grievances, and approaches to settlement, for purposes of comparison to Canadian Indian claims and grievances.

4. Dr. Barber was not accompanied by any member of his staff. However, the Commissioner's Director of Legal Research travelled independently to Australia and New Zealand from February 24, 1972 to March 12, 1972, during which period he spent some time with Dr. Barber.

5. The information regarding Dr. Barber's honorarium is not yet available as Dr. Barber has not yet submitted any claim for honorarium or expenses.

POST OFFICE AT MOUNT UNIACKE, N.S.

Question No. 496—**Mr. McCleave:**

1. What plans are there for a public building to house the post office at Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia and on what date will tenders be called?

2. Will the size of the new post office take into account the population growth in the area being served?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): 1. None in the foreseeable future.

2. Not applicable.

OLD AGE SECURITY PENSIONS

Question No. 511—**Mr. Dionne:**

What amounts were paid for Old Age Security Pensions in each province since the Act was passed?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Payments under the Old Age Security Act commenced in January 1952. The figures hereunder cover the period 1952-53 to 1970-71 inclusive, and commencing with 1967-68, Guaranteed Income Supplement payments are included.

	\$
Newfoundland	314,196,928
Prince Edward Island	128,501,559
Nova Scotia	717,700,620
New Brunswick	531,410,695
Quebec	3,490,486,507
Ontario	5,625,605,917
Manitoba	915,798,771
Saskatchewan	924,460,890
Alberta	1,038,298,711
British Columbia	1,883,887,059
Yukon and Northwest Territories	11,867,290
Total	15,582,214,947

[Mr. Burton.]

FUNDS FOR POST OFFICE, KAMOURASKA
CONSTITUENCY

Question No. 513—**Mr. Dionne:**

What amounts were allocated for the refurbishing or construction of buildings used by the Post Office Department in the constituency of Kamouraska since 1962?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works):

Year	Location and Project	Amount \$
1964	La Pocatière, post office	42,600
1966	St. André de Kamouraska, post office	22,345
1969-	St. Pascal, alterations and addition	
1970	to public building	84,647
1970	Rivière Bleue, post office	32,790
1971	St. Pamphile, post office	38,845
1971	Ste. Helene de Kamouraska, post office	12,465
1971	La Pocatière, air conditioning public building	7,638
1971	Notre Dame du Portage, improvements to lighting	5,234

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise in connection with the failure of the government to answer questions. I do not like to have to raise this, but the House is entitled to the respect of the government. What is happening is that questions that might prove embarrassing to the government are not being answered.

• (1430)

I have mentioned this matter before and of necessity I have to raise it again, because starred questions are to be answered in a reasonable time. The normal time is four days. Question No. 446, which was placed on the order paper on March 28, has remained unanswered. What is the use of a starred question unless it is going to be answered? In view of the fact it has not been answered, I hope Your Honour will not consider it remiss if I direct some questions to the government concerning this matter that is obviously being concealed. My question was:

How many Red Ensigns were in the possession of the Department of Public Works on the date the present flag came into existence?

I also asked how many were still on hand. It should not take very long to answer that question if they tell the truth.

My other question, No. 354, is not a starred question, but it is one that is requisite so that the farmers of western Canada may know what the situation was with respect to the final wheat payments for the 1970 crop year. My question asked:

What was the total amount disbursed by the Wheat Board for final wheat payments for the 1970 crop year?

The answer is available to the government any time it wishes to give it. Second, my question asked:

How many producers received payments in each of the prairie provinces?