

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 221 will be answered today.

[Text]

Question No. 221—**Ms. Callbeck:**

How many federal public servants are there in Prince Edward Island and how many are in positions designated bilingual?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): As of December 1991, there were 1,970 active Public Service employees represented by Treasury Board in accordance with the Public Service Staff Relations Act, Schedule I, Part I, working in the province of Prince Edward Island. Of these, 441 employees occupied bilingual positions.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

Mr. Cooper: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I wish to inform the House, pursuant to Standing Order 33(2)(b), that because of ministerial statements Government Orders will be extended by 32 minutes, unless the government whips can get together to defer or delete it.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-60, an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There were two minutes remaining on question and comments.

Mr. Gardiner: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps you could check with the Table. I had written late last week to Mr. Speaker regarding an emergency debate in the House under the provisions of Standing Order 52 on the important issue of softwood lumber. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if you could check on that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I do not have it in front of me. I will check on it and get back to the hon. member.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I just want to finish commenting on the last point that was put to me before Question Period.

For our viewers out there, we were talking about Bill C-60 to amend the fiscal arrangements between the national government and the provinces. Basically this bill makes sure that our equalization payments or transfers to the provinces are brought up to speed.

As I was saying before Question Period, the importance of this bill in maintaining our national will is obvious. As long as we as a national government are able to take money from those provinces that are doing exceedingly well and transfer it to provinces that are not doing so well so that national standards on education and health care can be maintained, I think our ability to function as a nation is going to be maintained.