

Questions

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADA

senior officials of one of the departments. There was a public tender called for one of these auxiliary airfields I mentioned, and it is my opinion that contempt was shown in not presenting this answer at that time in view of the fact a public tender had already been let while parliament was still in session. This information could have been made available.

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to call the starred questions, unless there is a reply.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*HIRING OF OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

Question No. 705—Mr. Fisher:

Has the Minister of Finance or the privy council office any precedents, exact or analogous, to the hiring of outside contractors for help in preparing the budget and, if so, what are they in terms of persons, dates and minutes passed and orders issued?

Mr. Benson: Yes. Under authority of P.C. 10/7354 dated December 14, 1940, Walter Lockhart Gordon, C.A., Toronto, was appointed as special assistant to the deputy minister, Department of Finance, and was entitled to receive an allowance of \$600 per month to cover living, travelling and other out of pocket expenses, and served in this capacity from December 9, 1940 to February 28, 1942.

Under authority of P.C. 4912 dated June 9, 1942, Professor Frank A. Knox, Kingston, Ontario, was appointed temporarily as assistant to the deputy minister of finance, to assist in the making of current estimates and forecasts of Canada's foreign exchange situation, and to be paid out of pocket living and travelling expenses.

Under authority of P.C. 33/11160 dated December 9, 1942, Professor V. W. Bladen, University of Toronto, Ontario, was appointed to assist the Department of Finance, on a part time basis, in making investigations and reports in regard to certain tax problems, and was paid an allowance of \$20 per day for the time spent on this work, together with actual out of pocket expenses, effective November 25, 1942.

Under P.C. 29/262 dated January 23, 1948, authority was granted to pay the Bank of Nova Scotia out of pocket costs incurred as a result of making available to the Department of Finance for the periods from November 13 to 21 and from November 27 to December 19, 1947, the services of J. Douglas Gibson for work on measures made necessary by the foreign exchange situation at that time.

Question No. 766—Mr. Howard:

Are any matters currently under discussion or negotiation with the government of the United States of America or any agency or branch thereof, regarding the interest of both the U.S. and Canada or of interest only to Canada, and, if so, what specifically are these matters?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Discussions and negotiations on matters of common interest are being carried on continuously between the government of Canada and the government of the United States. It would be contrary to the public interest and to generally accepted practice to describe them while they are in progress or to specify all the subjects being discussed or negotiated. Both governments are, of course, conscious of the necessity for keeping the public well informed, and wherever discussions have matured to the point where a public announcement can be made this is done and, in particular, the house is appropriately informed.

PROTESTS AGAINST SALES TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS

Question No. 833—Mr. Nesbitt:

How many letters or telegrams have been received by the Minister of Finance in criticism of the imposition of the 11 per cent sales tax on (a) building materials (b) production machinery?

Answer: (a) 371 (b) 61; 54 communications were received mentioning both building materials and production machinery.

BUDGET ASSISTANCE BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS

Question No. 834—Mr. Gundlock:

1. In what particular taxation field or fields were each of the following persons regarded as possessing special knowledge or experience (a) Mr. D. C. H. Stanley (b) Mr. M. P. O'Connell (c) Mr. G. R. Conway and (d) Mr. R. J. Anderson?

2. On what portions of the budget were each of the said persons specifically consulted or did they give advice on to the government or minister?

Answer: 1. (a) Mr. D. C. H. Stanley has had many years of experience in the investment business and because of this experience he has been engaged by the royal commission on banking and finance to make a study for the commission.

(b) Dr. M. P. O'Connell is a former professor at the University of Toronto, has had several years of experience in the bond business, and is a specialist in the field of municipal finance.

(c) Mr. G. R. Conway is a chartered accountant who had been engaged in research on taxation at Harvard University. He has recently joined the staff of the royal commission on taxation.

(d) Mr. R. J. Anderson is a chartered accountant.