

Routine Proceedings

We have determined that there is a reason for it. This is the mace which was the substitute for the mace destroyed in the fire of 1916. On February 3 of each year this is the mace that is on the table rather than the shinier one.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 440 and 447.

[Text]

Question No. 440—Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):

With respect to the Northern Flood Agreement (a) does the government intend to call for a construction audit to independently assess contract performance regarding cost, quality and quantity requirements of the agreement and (i) if so, when will it be completed and made public (ii) if not, for what reasons (b) who has received contracts under the provisions of the agreement and, in each case, for what amounts and when were they granted?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): In so far as the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is concerned, the response is as follows:

(a) The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development does not intend to call for a construction audit of the Northern Reconstruction Authority (NFCRA).

An extensive technical evaluation was conducted by Public Works Canada and Indian Affairs and Northern Development in 1989. The evaluation stated that the NFCRA met or exceeded all Treasury Board requirements called for in the article 6.1 agreement regarding construction standards.

In addition, annual unqualified audits have been submitted by the NFCRA. This process provides effective accountability to both the bands and the federal government.

(b) The names of NFCRA contractors and the amounts of the contracts constitute commercially confidential third-party information and, as such, cannot be released.

Question No. 447—Mr. Manley:

How has VIA Rail spent the three additional appropriations as outlined in the supplementary estimates of March 31, 1992:

\$27,036,000, a transfer of \$21,591,516, and \$5,444,484 in new appropriations?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): The total amount of \$27,036,000 outlined in the Supplementary Estimates of March 31, 1992 is in support of the following two government initiatives:

—\$21,100,000 identified was required in order to comply with 1992 amendments to the Financial Administration Act, initiated by the Office of the Comptroller General. These amendments have altered the Payables at Year-end (PAYE) process for government departments and Crown corporations. This amount does not represent an increase in VIA Rail's expenditures for 1991-92, but rather, the government's recognition of VIA's account receivables for prior year expenditures that could not be recognized under the previous PAYE mechanism.

—\$5,936,484 was required in support of VIA Rail's current level of passenger train services in remote regions. Transport Canada serves as a source of funding until such time as the future of these services is decided by the government.

[English]

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

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

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

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers No. P-22, in the name of the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

P-22—Mr. Boudria:

That an order of the House do issue copies of all import permits authorizing the bulk import of milk since April 1, 1991.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I notice the hon. member is not in the Chamber. Would he want to leave it for another date or transfer it for debate?

Mr. Edwards: Transfer it for debate.