

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**PUBLIC SERVICE****ROLE OF ECONOMISTS, STATISTICIANS AND  
SOCIOLOGISTS IN ADVISING GOVERNMENT—PRIME  
MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

As the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) today handed us a communique to the effect that 1,380 economists, statisticians and sociologists are employed by various federal departments, receiving salaries totalling \$23 million, I would ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware of that fact and whether it is these 1,380 officials who advise the government in its decision to fight inflation or deflation, or related to economic conditions prevailing in Canada.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Is the hon. member referring to economists and statisticians employed by the federal government?

**Mr. Caouette:** Yes.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, their role is similar to that of all officials, which is to advise the minister to whom they are responsible. This minister must make decisions on the basis of all this expertise and his own knowledge of the country.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister aware that there are 1,380 such persons in the federal departments?

**Mr. Speaker:** I don't believe this part of the question is in order. The hon. member is merely asking if the Prime Minister is aware that a certain number of civil servants are working in the Public Service. The question, as such, is out of order. Perhaps the hon. member would like to rephrase his question or ask again the second part of it.

**Mr. Caouette:** I shall ask the second part of the question, Mr. Speaker. Are these the people who advise the government on policies that are followed or that are introduced in the House of Commons?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose so, in various areas. These economists and statisticians are distributed among all government departments. There are some in the Department of Agriculture and certainly in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce as well as with the Bank of Canada and the Department of Finance. Those people advise the ministers in the manner I described earlier. I definitely see nothing there to make a fuss about.

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS  
REPORT ON AID PROGRAM**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he indicate the use to

which the first \$5 million of the \$18 million aid program which Canada has designated to assist East Pakistan refugees in India has been put, whether he has had any advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and also will he say whether the government has decided on the use to which the remaining \$13 million will be put? In effect, I ask simply for a progress report with respect to Canada's aid program.

● (2:30 p.m.)

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we only allocated \$5 million of the \$22 million that is available was to see that the money was properly used for the purpose for which it was appropriated. As I said when I gave an answer just before Christmas, \$2 million has been turned over to the High Commissioner for Refugees and the other \$3 million to Canadian voluntary agencies. I have not yet had a report since this decision on exactly what is being done with that money by the High Commissioner for Refugees. I understand in general, however, that aid is still getting to the refugees and I am hopeful that will continue to be the case, notwithstanding the rather chaotic conditions that exist.

**EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** A supplementary question. Would the minister be kind enough to indicate to the House, if I understand his response correctly, whether any of this money is being used for the repatriation of these people? Have we done anything with respect to transport or is the High Commissioner utilizing any of the Canadian money for assistance in transporting these people back home?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot vouch for the exact use of the \$2 million which will form part of the funds at the disposition of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. However, I did in my answer indicate that the money would be used not only for relief on the spot but also to help in the repatriation, so we have no objection if some money is used for that purpose.

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**POLLUTION****PLAN TO DUMP TORONTO GARBAGE IN NORTHERN  
ONTARIO—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, but in his absence I would direct it to his parliamentary secretary. What action if any can be taken by the Department of the Environment to prevent the government of Ontario from implementing a plan to transport the garbage of Toronto and dump it in Northern Ontario?

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, naturally we are not involved in what would essentially be a provincial action, but we are keeping an eye on it.