

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

REGULATORY AGENCIES

Question No. 151—Mr. Herbert:

1. How many federal regulatory agencies, having regulatory or semi-judicial powers, exist?
2. What is the number of such regulatory agencies reporting to Parliament through members of the ministry and what is the number the Prime Minister and each cabinet minister is primarily responsible for?
3. What is the number reporting only to the Prime Minister and to members of the ministry and what is the number from whom each receives a report?
4. How many do not report to Parliament or for whom no cabinet minister is responsible?

Mr. John Bosley (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):

1. There is no formal official definition of what constitutes a regulatory agency.

One possible definition was provided by the Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability, as "agencies whose primary functions are licensing, making rules and orders, and supervising activities in a particular industry or sector of the economy" (Final Report, page 309). On this basis the royal commission listed the following bodies:

Anti-Dumping Tribunal

*Anti-Inflation Board

Atomic Energy Control Board

Canada Labour Relations Board

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Canadian Transport Commission

International Boundary Commission

*Since ceased to exist.

International Joint Commission

National Energy Board

Office of the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act

Petroleum Compensation Board

Public Service Staff Relations Board

Restrictive Trade Practices Commission

Tariff Board

It might be noted that other writings on the subject have usually suggested less broad definitions of the term regulatory.

- 2 and 3. Eight of the bodies mentioned above have reported annually to Parliament through members of the ministry. These are:
 - Minister of Communications
 - Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
 - Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

- Atomic Energy Control Board
- National Energy Board
- Minister of Finance
- Anti-Inflation Board
- Anti-Dumping Tribunal
- Minister of Labour
- Canada Labour Relations Board
- President of the Privy Council
- Public Service Staff Relations Board
- Minister of Transport
- Canadian Transport Commission

The situation with the remaining six bodies, classified according to minister responsible, is:

Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs

The activities of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission are encompassed in the annual report of the director of investigation and research, both being bodies established under the Combines Investigation Act.

Secretary of State for External Affairs

Annual and other reports of the International Joint Commission and the International Boundary Commission are made public.

Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources

The Petroleum Compensation Board is established under the Petroleum Administration Act. Section 94 of that act requires the minister to prepare a report to be presented to Parliament on the administration of the act.

Minister of Finance

The Tariff Board is not required to report annually, but all reports, evidence and information (other than confidential material) on specific matters examined by the board must be laid before the Parliament.

Minister of National Revenue

Reports of the administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act are tabled.

Further information on reports and documents to be laid before the Parliament is obtainable from relevant statutes, and from the "List of Reports and Returns to be made to the House of Commons by Public Officers and Private Corporations" prepared for members by the Law Clerk and Parliamentary counsel.

4. None.