

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

ROYAL COMMISSIONS ESTABLISHED SINCE JANUARY 1964

Question No. 633—**Mr. Valade:**

Since January 1964 (a) how many Royal Commissions were established (b) what was the name of each (c) what was the cost of each?

Return tabled.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—STUDIES CONDUCTED BY DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS SECTION

Question No. 741—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

What studies have been conducted by the Development Analysis Section of the Northern Economic Development Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and (a) what were the amounts spent on each of these studies (b) who conducted these studies (c) what is the status of each study?

Return tabled.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER MANPOWER MOBILITY PROGRAM

Question No. 745—**Mr. Skoberg:**

1. With reference to the Department of Manpower and Immigration recent publication "Manpower Mobility Program Follow-up Study", prepared by Kates, Peat, Marwick and Co., dated March 31, 1969, how many applications for a relocation grant since the inception of this plan until December 31, 1970 have been refused?

2. How many applications for relocation grants under the Manpower Mobility Program have been refused by province?

3. On what grounds was the majority of the applications for a relocation grant under the Manpower Mobility Program refused?

4. How many applications for grants under the Manpower Mobility Program have been accepted by province?

5. What is the total amount of the grants paid for those qualifying under the Manpower Mobility Program by province?

Return tabled.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Speaker, I do not like to bother the parliamentary secretary but question No. 79 has been on the order paper since the first day of the session and it was on the order paper last session. In fact it has been on the order paper for almost a year. I know the Prime Minister has a big staff of consultants, but surely it should not take that long to let us know who they are and what they are doing.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—NEW PROPOSALS TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—BUSINESS INVESTMENT FORECASTS—STIMULATION OF ECONOMY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, as is becoming almost normal I would like

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the problems relating to unemployment and the deep concern expressed about this subject by a number of the provincial premiers, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he or any of his colleagues intend to make any new proposals to the federal-provincial conference that is taking place—that is, to the provincial premiers—or whether it is simply the intention of the government to defend the proposals and arrangements it has already made?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we intend to discuss fully with the provincial premiers the economic matters which will be raised by them.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, that is not very encouraging particularly in view of the forecast of business investment made by the Economic Council of Canada, based upon studies conducted last autumn. In view of this forecast, described as the most pessimistic medium-range forecast the Council has made since its establishment and which forecast has even been described as too optimistic by the well known firm of James Richardson and Sons, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he now proposes to undertake any measures designed to give some vigorous stimulation to the economy?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, if one takes a look at the comments of the Economic Council it will be seen that it pointed out to business, as I have often done, the stimulus included in the special provision in my recent budget through increased depreciation. It also pointed out that in the first year its forecast with regard to expansion of new business investment was about 2 per cent less than that given by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I think we can stick by our forecast of an 11 per cent increase.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he simply proposes to stick to his own forecast in light of the very pessimistic forecast that the Economic Council has made with regard to business investment in 1972, which is hardly the stuff of which business expansion is made? Does he intend to stick stubbornly to his own forecast, or does he intend to put something forward that will effectively encourage business expansion?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I would think, based on past experience, that a survey taken in October, 1969, is not a very good forecast of what is going to happen a year and a half later.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, since the Economic Council estimates that business capital investment for 1971 will increase by only 9 per cent compared with the government's estimate of 11 per cent, and that for 1972 it will actually decline back to the 1970 level, may I ask the minister whether he is preparing, either in his budget or in any legislation