

pleted in the fiscal year 1975/76. (c) The cost of these projects is approximately \$2,134,000. This amount does not include the maintenance and repair program.

2. A new vessel assistance program planned to include the modification and conversion of existing fishing vessels is currently being developed. There are no plans to provide assistance for gear improvement other than continuing research in this field.

3. The design of a program of income supplementation for needy fishermen, to replace the coverage for seasonal unemployment benefits provided by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, has been under study for some time. A number of options have been developed which, if acceptable for the clients, could be implemented as soon as an operational data base is fully in place. It is considered that the program selected must be integrated with programs being developed to rehabilitate the industry and trade based on the groundfish resources of the Atlantic coast.

4. Canada, at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, has been strongly advocating the concept of the economic zone, an area 188 miles wide beyond a 12 mile Territorial Sea, in which the coastal state would have sovereign rights over the exploitation and management of renewable and non-renewable resources as well as specified rights to control pollution and marine scientific research. With regard to fisheries jurisdiction, Canada is also seeking rights over the resources of the continental shelf where the shelf extends beyond the limit of the economic zone and, in addition, is seeking protection for anadromous fish species, such as salmon, when they migrate beyond the economic zone of the state of origin.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Question No. 1,974—**Mr. Reynolds:**

1. Was a contract awarded to R.C.A. Ltd., Montreal, Quebec for experimental communication with the communication technology at a cost of \$2,262,806?

2. What is the function of the procured experimental equipment?

3. What are expected benefits from such experimentation?

4. Does the Department of Supply and Services ever question the propriety of such contracts and contracts generally?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Supply and Services and Communications as follows: 1. A contract in that amount was awarded on October 2, 1974 to RCA Ltd. for existing electronic equipment, spares and data, modified in accordance with Department of Communications specifications, for use as part of the Remote User Experimental Terminals and Network Controls System of its Communications Technology Satellite.

2. The function of the equipment is to transmit signals to and receive signals from the Communications Technology Satellite (CTS). It forms part of the earth station complex required for the experimental use of the satellite.

3. The CTS Program is a joint Canadian/U.S.A. program involving the use of increased power in the satellite to permit the use of smaller, lower cost earth terminals. Canadian objectives are to assess the possible applications of such high power communications satellites, to develop

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and test the techniques and equipment required, and to develop the capability of Canadian industry to meet Canada's requirements for satellite communications systems in general.

4. The need for goods and services is established by the customer departments. The propriety of the price and other contract conditions is carefully examined, questioned and supported by officers of the department of Supply and Services prior to issuing contracts.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,047—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of External Affairs?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The Department of External Affairs does not have a Parliamentary Returns Office identified as such. Parliamentary returns are among the duties of departmental officials regularly assigned to the Office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,051—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Justice?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office as such in the Department of Justice. Parliamentary returns are handled by members of the Departmental Secretariat.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,059—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Public Works?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Fiscal year 1974/75 operating costs for the Parliamentary Returns Office were as follows: Salaries (two man years) and related costs, \$29,465.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,064—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Transport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Fiscal year 1974-75: \$36,000.