

observation, the one pertaining to motivation behind my decision today, has to be removed, failing which some other action will have to be taken. That is the only issue on which I think there should be any comment.

Mr. Blais: In conclusion, I should like to say to the hon. member for Egmont, through you, sir, that we are here, all of us, to do a job and I ask him at this point to do as requested by Mr. Speaker, namely, to withdraw his statement and, further, to apologize for having made it.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I apologize for having taken up unduly the time of the House on this matter.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I have not had an opportunity to look at the transcript but if, on reflection, I have in any way suggested that I believe there has been any deliberate bias on the part of the Chair, I certainly would apologize for that. One can only express one's own frustration at times at the difficulties which occur, and inasmuch as there is no opportunity at the present time to deal with that aspect in the context in which issues have been raised, it seems to me that the whole situation this afternoon points up a difficulty which I hope will be examined by the Committee on Procedure and Organization with respect to further reflection on the question period, because I agree very much with our House leader and others who have suggested that the question period, which is so important to our system of government, must work in the interests of the people generally with respect to information on vital questions of the day. I felt this was not happening today, and this was the cause of the considerable frustration I expressed following the question period.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is no apology.

Mr. Speaker: I shall, I think, take the option which seems to be the one of most wisdom, and that is to enable the hon. member for Egmont to see the transcript to examine what he did say and to make some reference to it 24 hours hence, failing which I might have to take other action tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Third Report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Cafik.

Public Service Performance

PUBLIC SERVICE

TABLING OF PROGRESS REPORT ON MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, in both official languages, copies of a progress report on the measurement of performance of the Public Service of Canada.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

TABLING OF REFERENCES TO BOARD

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I should like to table six references of the Anti-Inflation Board, in both official languages.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

STATEMENT ON PERFORMANCE DATA

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that as part of its continuing effort to restrain federal expenditures and improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of federal programs, the government has decided to pursue with vigour and urgency the development and use of operational performance measurement systems in the public service of Canada. I have instructed the secretary of the Treasury Board to write to all deputy heads of departments and heads of agencies to remind them of the obligation placed on them by TBS Circular 1976-25 to develop such systems, to provide performance data in support of submissions to the Treasury Board concerning the operations of their department or agency and, generally, to comply swiftly and comprehensively with all the provisions of that circular.

I also wish to announce that in mid-1976 the Treasury Board secretariat began department by department audits of performance measurement systems within the public service. Each audit will conclude with a report to the Treasury Board, and to the department or agency involved, on the latter's compliance with TBS Circular 1976-25. These audits will be repeated periodically to ensure that adequate progress is made toward these goals; that all departments and agencies have functioning performance measurement systems by 1980 for all government operations where this is feasible; that these systems be used, not only in support of submissions to the Treasury Board, but also for management planning and control within each department and agency; that the quality and reliability of performance indicators be continuously improved.

A few minutes ago I tabled a progress report on the measurement of performance in the public service, to which are appended concrete examples of performance indicators developed by federal government departments and agencies