

4. What steps have been taken to clean up the mercury pollution in the areas affected?

Return tabled.

MEMBER OF SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Question No. 1,693—**Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay):**

1. How many social workers are employed by the government (a) in each department (b) in each province?

2. How many social workers employed are qualified as follows (a) Diploma in Social Work (b) Bachelor of Social Work (c) Master of Social Work (d) extension courses (e) on-job training (f) other qualifications?

3. How many social workers are engaged in (a) medical social work (b) psychiatric social work (c) community organization?

4. How many social workers employed by the government are qualified as (a) case workers (b) group workers (c) community organization workers?

Return tabled.

EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Question No. 1,742—**Mr. Nielsen:**

1. How many persons are employed (a) by the Government of the North West Territories (b) by the Government of Canada in (i) Yellowknife, North West Territories (ii) the remainder of the North West Territories?

2. What is the total amount paid in wages and allowances to those in (a) and (b) in (i) and (ii)?

Return tabled.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE—ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Question No. 1,904—**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):**

What are the names and professions of each of the 40 members of the Advisory Board attached to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce (a) on what date was each appointed (b) what are their terms of office (c) what specific role do they perform (d) are they paid any fees and, if so (i) how much (ii) how are such fees determined (e) what is the mother tongue of each (f) how many are bilingual?

Return tabled.

● (1410)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

REASONS FOR PREDICTING BALANCED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1973, IN LIGHT OF ACTUAL SURPLUS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he any explanation as to how, as recently as six weeks ago, he could have predicted a balanced budget for the fiscal year that expired on March

Oral Questions

31 last whereas in fact a surplus of almost half a billion dollars was actually the result? Has the minister any explanation at all as to how he and his officials could be as much as half a billion dollars out six weeks before the end of the fiscal year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Sir. That discrepancy is well within the range of 1 per cent or 2 per cent—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):—found in the national accounts. As a matter of fact, this morning Statistics Canada released a revision of the national accounts for the year 1972 moving up the gross national product from 5.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent. But in the accounts to which the hon. gentleman refers a good deal of it has to do with the inability of parliament to deal with some of the legislative items that were forecasted as being part of the accounts. I refer to the enactment of the Canadian National-Air Canada guarantees bill, and personal income tax refunds were much lower in the first quarter because the income tax measures for 1972 were still pending, and many corporations had to maintain—

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):—their existing rate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, there must be a specific place in the rules of the House and a specific time when the minister can make apologies, but not now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): On that point of order, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition presents me with a question in debating form, surely I am entitled under the rules to reply to him in debating form.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I simply asked the minister if he had any explanation of the discrepancy of half a billion dollars and obviously he has not. In view of the minister and his department being half a billion dollars out in their prediction as recently as six weeks before the end of the fiscal year, and in view of the impossibility of running a country on that basis, I ask the minister whether he has any intention of establishing a more effective forecasting arrangement?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will deal with that in debate, but I should say to the hon. gentleman that he and his colleagues were calling for a deficit twice as large as the deficit I predicted for that fiscal year, and yet the real gross national product in this country for the first quarter increased 2.9 per cent which is an annual rate of 10 to 12 per cent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): If the hon. gentleman is talking about a deficit that did not come closer to his