

## Questions

on the extension of services in general, and in particular with the requirements of this group.

[English]

## ANSWERING OF ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS

Question No. 502—**Mr. Robinson:**

1. Who is the individual in each department of government responsible for seeing that questions placed on the Order Paper of the House of Commons are answered?

2. What department of government is responsible for co-ordinating the answers to questions placed on the Order Paper?

3. (a) What are the qualifications of each person so designated in each department of government to answer questions placed on the Order Paper (b) is this function a part of his or her duty (c) what other duties does the individual perform (d) how many years has each been with their respective department (e) what is the degree of competence required for such a position?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** 1. The Minister.

2. The President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

3. (a) A Minister of the Crown must be a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and a member of the House of Commons or of the Senate or must become a member of the House of Commons or of the Senate shortly after becoming a Minister; (b) in general, a Minister's function is to be answerable to Parliament both for matters of policy and administration; (c) a Minister may perform many other duties in addition to being responsible for the administration of his department; (d) this is a matter of public record; and (e) the maximum competence obtainable is required.

## FREE TIME FOR POLITICAL PARTIES ON CBC

Question No. 511—**Mr. Matte:**

Have requests been made to the CBC concerning the possibility of making free time available each week to each of the political parties and, if so, when will this policy be implemented and, if not, is such action being considered?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the CBC that, to the best of the Corporation's knowledge, no such requests have been received and the CBC is not considering such a policy.

[English]

## LOAN APPLICATIONS, P.E.I.

Question No. 521—**Mr. McQuaid:**

1. How many applications were received during the past fiscal year from the Province of Prince Edward Island for (a) Farm Credit Corporation Loans (b) Farm Improvement Loans (c) Small Business Loans (d) Fisheries Improvement Loans?

2. How many of the applications were accepted for each of the above categories and what was the total amount loaned in each case?

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** I am informed by the Farm Credit Corporation and the Department of Finance as follows: 1. (a) 164, (b), (c) and (d). Information is not available. Under the administration of these Acts, the chartered banks report particulars only in respect of loans which have been approved. No record exists, therefore, of applications for loans which may have been declined by lenders.

2. (a) 112 loans for total amount of \$2,612,200, in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1969. (b) 399 loans for \$923,035 in the calendar year ended December 31, 1968. (c) 19 loans for \$190,675 in the calendar year ended December 31, 1968. (d) 22 loans for \$42,290 in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1969.

## CESSATION OF USE OF SILVER IN COINS

Question No. 531—**Mr. Barnett:**

1. When did the Royal Canadian Mint cease to use silver in the minting of Canadian coins?

2. For a period immediately prior to this date, did the market value of silver in Canadian coins exceed the face value of the coins, and, if so, for how long a period?

3. What is the actual or estimated cost to the government during this period resulting from excess of market value over face value of silver used in minting of Canadian coins?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services):** In so far as Royal Canadian Mint is concerned: 1. On August 1, 1968.

2. In September 1967, the Mint reduced the silver content of coins from 80 per cent to 50 per cent, which gave a break-even point of \$2.67 $\frac{2}{3}$  per ounce troy of silver. Market price for silver exceeded this point for one day only in 1968.

3. None. The minting of coins composed of 50 per cent silver resulted in seignorage to the government.