

Order Paper Questions

of future markets for Canadian exports in the geographic area concerned.

3. Loans to foreign borrowers are at interest rates established in competition with Export Credit Agencies in other countries and are generally below commercial rates.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES HIGHWAY STRENGTHENING
AGREEMENT

Question No. 4,841—**Mr. Howie:**

What was the (a) Government contribution (b) total cost of construction under the Atlantic Provinces Highway Strengthening Agreement with reference to the Geary-Oromocto-Lincoln-Fredericton Bypass, including bridges and overpasses?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Total expenditures and federal Government contribution to the Geary-Oromocto-Lincoln-Fredericton By-pass, including bridges and overpasses under the Canada/New Brunswick Primary Highway Strengthening/Improvement Agreement (Phase I): (a) \$ 8,479,244.80; (b) \$16,958,489.60.

[English]

Mr. Smith: I would ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered.

[English]

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary about a question I placed on the Order Paper in November of 1981 which reads as follows:

Did the (a) Minister of Supply and Services (b) Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (c) Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development take a JetStar flight to Winnipeg for the official opening of General Aluminum Forgings Incorporated on October 30, 1981 and, if so, in each case, other than the Minister and the aircraft crew, who was on the flight?

I find it to be very strange that the question has not been answered, because Mr. Al Holman of the CBC requested manifest information on Liberal Cabinet Ministers' misuse of the JetStar flights and, in particular, with regard to the Minister of State for International Trade, who was flying his mother-in-law around the country. Mr. Holman requested this information in October of 1982, and he received the information in May of 1983.

I would like the Parliamentary Secretary to explain to me or inquire from the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) why this double standard is being applied by the Government. Members of Parliament have placed questions on the Order Paper which the Government refuses to answer, but all members of the press have to do is phone up and ask for information on the misuse of these JetStars and they receive the information.

Mr. Nielsen: Freedom of information.

Mr. McKenzie: Will the Parliamentary Secretary explain to me why my question, which dates back to 1981, is not being answered?

Mr. Nielsen: Damn good point.

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I am unable to give the Hon. Member an explanation, and I think his point is well taken. I do not know why this information has not been provided to me. I will again make inquiries. I think there has been enough time to come up with the answers.

Mr. Stevens: I rise on a point of order. Madam Speaker, along the same theme, and in view of the assurance of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) that any MP who wants to receive details with respect to ministerial travel on Government planes will be provided with such detail, I would point out to the Parliamentary Secretary that on January 29, 1981 I asked two very simple questions, the first being: "What was the total cost of the Prime Minister's December 1980 to January 1981 world tour?" Second, I asked: "What percentage of the total cost of the trip will be paid by the Canadian taxpayer?"

Madam Speaker, you will note that I did not even ask who the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took along as guests on the trip. I just asked about the total cost and how much the Canadian public would be called upon to pay. Can the Parliamentary Secretary explain to the House why, almost two and one half years after the event, we are still unable to receive those simple figures?

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I am unable to offer an explanation in this case either, although I do know that in this particular case a number of departments are involved and that the answer to the question is, in fact, more complicated. However, in any event I will make further inquiries to see if I can expedite an answer.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, again I would direct the Parliamentary Secretary's attention to question No. 3,216, asked by myself on October 23, 1981. It simply asked: "Did the Prime Minister travel to New York in March, 1981 and, if so, what was the total cost of the trip and what percentage will be paid by the taxpayer?" Again, in question No. 3,217 on October 23 I asked: "Did the Prime Minister travel to Algeria in May, 1981 and, if so, what was the total cost of the trip and what percentage will be paid by the taxpayer?"

Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell me why we are still not furnished with answers to those two questions? Surely he cannot keep saying that more than one Department is involved.

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, the reason the answer has not been tabled is that I have not been provided with it. However, I will, of course, as always, be delighted to look into this matter on behalf of the Hon. Member and see what I can do to expedite an answer.

Mr. Stevens: A point of order.