

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

2. What are the names of the Wardens of each of these institutions, and (a) how long have they been in their positions (b) what are their professional qualifications?

Return tabled.

• (2:50 p.m.)

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I would like to make representations to the hon. Secretary of State and ask that questions numbers 40, 41, 43 and 44 be answered as soon as possible. These questions were partly placed on the order paper during the last session and the Civil Service Commission could answer them more quickly.

*[English]*

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Perhaps I could deal with that question. My information is that most of the material from the departments concerned is now at hand and I expect to be in a position to reply to Nos. 40 and 41 on Wednesday next.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS****PROPOSED TRANSFER TO PROVINCES OF FISCAL POINTS IN RELATION TO SHARED COST PROGRAMS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is a fact that his government has resurrected the proposal which was turned down by the provinces several years ago, to offer an additional 17 points of personal income tax to those provinces which would take over the hospital plan, the Canada assistance plan and the program of health care; and would the Prime Minister say whether this is the only proposal of substance, rather than of detail, which the government of Canada has made to the federal-provincial conference of finance ministers?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I do not want to comment in too great detail on these talks which are beginning today and which will continue tomorrow. The Minister of Finance will be here to reveal any part of the discussions on which there is agreement, or agreement to disclose; but in a general way I can say that the government of Canada has renewed, with slight modifications, the offers which were made in the fall of 1966.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

**Mr. Stanfield:** As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reported remarks of Prime Minister Bertrand this morning concerning the 2 per cent social development surcharge and the remarks of the provincial treasurer of Ontario concerning the futility of the federal-provincial conference as a result of the timing of the budget, will the Prime Minister say whether the 2 per cent surcharge in particular is subject to any review by the government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker, because we think it is erroneous on the part of the provinces to submit that this 2 per cent tax is linked specifically to medicare, as they do in their briefs. It is a general tax for social development purposes, and has been imposed to meet the escalation of costs in many areas of expenditure.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Would the Prime Minister advise the house whether this renewed offer of 17 points on the income tax bears the characteristics of the previous offer, that these would be subject to refunds from the provinces if the yields in this field of taxation were in excess of the costs of the programs for which they were being turned over to the provinces?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the offer made in 1966 was perhaps slightly different from that which I understand the hon. member to be saying. It was 17 per cent as a transfer of fiscal points plus a supplementary to equalize total receipts, so it would cover the expenditures which are variable. Seventeen per cent did not mean the same thing for all provinces because of the differences in size and so on. It was 17 per cent plus a supplementary amount which was meant as an equalization amount.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Would the Prime Minister say whether his government is making specific proposals to the provinces, either at the finance minister's meeting or at the meeting of the minister of health, with regard to a ceiling or some other formula for the control of the shared cost programs? Will there be such specific proposals and, if so, will they be communicated to this house as they are presented to the provinces?

**Mr. Trudeau:** During the discussions there will arise certain suggestions on our part as to ways in which expenditures might be limited, but we are making them only by way of suggestions. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the expenditures themselves are