

Order Paper Questions

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE—CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Question No. 706—Mr. Clarke:

1. For the fiscal year 1978-79, how many contracts were let by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce for professional services, to persons who at any time within the past five years, had been employed in indeterminate positions under the Public Service Commission?

2. How many contracts were (a) for less than one year (b) for one to two years (c) over two years?

3. How many contracts were let outside the National Capital Region?

4. What was the total cost of all such contracts?

Mr. Gérald Laniel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): 1. 14 contracts.

2. (a) 11

(b) 3

(c) None.

3. None.

4. \$90,683.00.

ENVIRONMENT—FIRE DAMAGES TO BUILDINGS IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Question No. 720—Mr. Clarke:

1. With reference to the uninsured losses of more than \$1,000 due to fire damages to buildings recorded by the Department of the Environment in footnote number 3 at page 12.62, Volume 1 of the 1978-79 Public Accounts of Canada, did the department take steps to determine the cause of the fire in the hydrogen shed at (a) Baker Lake, N.W.T. (b) Fort Smith, N.W.T. and, if so, in each case, what were they?

2. Was the department able to determine if anyone was culpable in the fires and, if so, what action was taken against them?

3. Did the department undertake procedural or structural changes to ensure that such losses do not recur and, if so, what were they?

4. What use does the department make of the hydrogen sheds?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): 1. (a) The fire at Baker Lake, N.W.T. was investigated by a team comprised of R.B. Hall (Electrical Engineer—Instruments Branch), J. MacLeod (Air Inspector—Central Region) and J. Keefe (Safety and Security Officer Atmospheric Environment Service). In that the building was totally destroyed and the contents very badly burned, the task of determining the exact source of the fire was a difficult one. After careful examination of the fire scene and consideration of the information obtained from witnesses the investigating team concluded the probable cause of the fire to have been a malfunction in the electrical cubicle of the Stuart Electrolytic Hydrogen Plant. Because of the combustible nature of the building construction, the fire was able to spread to nearby walls and flooring.

(b) The fire at Fort Smith, N.W.T. was investigated by E. C. Holly, (Chief, Airport Emergency Services—Transport Canada, Fort Smith), P. Chporney (Meteorological Inspector—A.E.S. Western Region) and the station officer in charge. The cause of the explosion was immediately evident as having been a procedural one. A weather balloon being inflated with

hydrogen was not adequately clamped to the filling stand and broke loose during the inflation process. The balloon, being lighter than air, immediately rose to the ceiling where ignition occurred (probably from static electricity) and the hydrogen gas exploded.

2. There was no evidence to indicate culpability in either incident.

3. The structural design of a hydrogen inflation/storage building has been under review for the past three years by Environment Canada and Transport Canada. As a result of this review a basic design package has been formulated which meets or exceeds all existing standards for such structures. Included in the new design is non-combustible construction material which probably would contain and prevent the spread of an electrical cubicle fire such as Baker Lake and adequate explosion venting which will enable a building to withstand the pressure of a balloon explosion as occurred at Fort Smith. The explosion venting also provides protection of anyone in the building at the time of such an explosion by preventing pressure increases which reach a hazardous level. In addition to the design changes, all upper air employees have been warned of the hazard associated with the balloon not being adequately clamped to the filling stand.

4. Hydrogen is needed for inflating aerological balloons because it is the lightest of all known gases. The balloons carry aloft an electronic instrument to measure the pressure, the temperature and humidity of the air through which it passes. The information thus obtained is picked up by a receiver at the ground station. Hydrogen sheds are used to house the Stuart Electrolytic Hydrogen Plant which produces hydrogen by means of the electrolysis of water. Hydrogen thus produced is stored in a 650 standard cubic foot tank at a maximum pressure of 100 pounds until it is used to inflate the balloon.

CN-CP—TELECOMMUNICATIONS—TCTS—COMPUTERS CONNECTED TO NETWORKS

Question No. 808—Mr. Beatty:

1. Do departments or agencies have computers which are connected as hosts to the (a) Datapac network of TCTS (b) Infoswitch network of CN/CP Telecommunications and, if so, which ones?

2. In each case, what was the average network traffic, measured in packets-per-day, in the first four months of 1980?

3. In each case, what application packages or data bases were remotely accessed during the first four months of 1980?

Mr. Robert Daudlin (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): 1. The following department or agencies have computers which are connected as hosts to the

(a) Datapac network of TCTS:

Agriculture

Communications

Energy, Mines and Resources

Environment

National Research Council

Post Office