

Order for Return

SALARY OF C.B.C. PRESIDENT

Question No. 1,581—Mr. Martineau:

1. What is the present salary of the president of the C.B.C., Mr. Alphonse Ouimet?
2. How long has he been receiving this rate of salary?
3. When did he receive the last increase of salary?
4. Is consideration being given at the present time to increasing his salary?
5. Have any of the other executive officers of the C.B.C. recently received salary increases and, if so, which officers have received increases, giving in each case, the amounts of such increases?
6. Is consideration being given at the present time to increasing the rate of salaries being paid to its executive officers?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1. \$20,000.
2. Approximately 9 years.
3. July 1, 1954 as general manager.
4. Yes.

5 and 6. It has not been customary to require crown corporations to disclose information which is basically related to their administration and management. There is the additional consideration that disclosure of such information could adversely affect the C.B.C. in the competitive business in which it is engaged.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, MACKENZIE DISTRICT AND FORT SMITH AREA

Question No. 1,094—Mr. Rheume:

1. What federal construction projects including roads are planned for the 1963-64 fiscal year in (a) Mackenzie district and (b) Fort Smith area?
2. How many of these projects, in each of the above areas, will be carried out by (a) Department of Public Works (b) Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and (c) private contractors?

Return tabled.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. My question of privilege involves starred question No. 1,349, which has been on the order paper for three weeks now. It asks a very simple question, namely what is to be the site of the Canadian world exhibition, when the decision was made to select this site, who made it, and under what authority. Surely a simple question such as that should be within the knowledge of whoever is the minister responsible, and it should have been answered by now.

Mr. Drury.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROCEDURE RESPECTING QUESTIONS ON ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members may recall that last Thursday I made certain tentative suggestions to the house by way of experiment. Today being Monday it would be very helpful to the Chair if I could have an expression of opinion or have those suggestions adopted for future conduct of business in the house.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, perhaps that could remain until just before the orders of the day are called and could be discussed then, because I think there will be some discussion on your suggestions.

Mr. Speaker: We have reached that point in our proceedings; I was about to call orders of the day.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Speaker, the official opposition has looked into this matter, and while entirely in agreement with the objective cannot accept in their entirety the various suggestions which you made. There was no consultation with the Leader of the Opposition by the Speaker or anyone on his behalf before this matter was brought before the house by Your Honour.

We think that in general these are matters which should be considered by the committee and that an early report, an interim report, could be made by the committee respecting these various ideas and views expressed. The responsibility for maintaining the rules rests on the Speaker. Your Honour has set forth clearly and definitively the rules which apply to questions asked before the orders of the day. We had an experience with the last occupant of the august position you now occupy; he endeavoured to enforce the rules very strictly and definitely, and one just has to read what took place in order to have an answer.

Mention was made by Your Honour of the number of questions which were asked, and I suggested that Your Honour might go back into 1962 and 1961 and have placed on the record something of the experience of those two years. The other day I stated that the trend in recent years has been in the general direction of an increase in questions. Yesterday, casually reading one of the political quarterly reports of 1962, I came upon a reference to a book "Questions in Parliament" by Chester and Bowring, 1962. I did not expect that volume to be in the library, but it was. That shows the trend in the United Kingdom.

Because, Mr. Speaker, you placed on the record the numbers of questions asked, which