

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Question No. 1,205—**Mr. MacLean:**

What is the estimated expenditure to be made by the federal government in the fiscal year 1970-71 for highway construction in each of the four Atlantic Provinces, other than in national parks?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): So far as the Department of Public Works is concerned: Estimated contributions to Atlantic Provinces under the Trans-Canada Highway program for the fiscal year 1970-71: Newfoundland, \$5,800,000; Prince Edward Island, \$28,000; New Brunswick, \$2,600,000; Nova Scotia, \$1,900,000.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE DISCUSSION OF ILO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

Question No. 1,241—**Mr. Orlikow:**

1. In connection with the Canadian Charter of Human Rights, what Conventions of the International Labour Organization dealing with social and economic rights has Canada ratified?

2. Were these Conventions, ratified by Canada, which are now part of the legal structure of Canada, included in the documents prepared by the Government of Canada for discussion at the Federal-Provincial Conference and, if not, for what reasons?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. Canada is a party to 24 of the ILO Conventions all of which construed in their broadest sense relate to social and economic rights. However, on the basis of a recent study by an ILO committee of experts, the following conventions to which Canada is bound would appear to be among those ILO instruments having the most direct relevance to these areas: No. 26, Convention concerning the creation of Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery; No. 88, Convention concerning the Organization of the Employment Service; No. 105, Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; No. 111, Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation; No. 122, Convention concerning Employment Policy.

2. The above ILO Conventions were not included in the documents prepared by the Government of Canada for discussion at the Federal-Provincial Conference of February 1969 when a "Canadian Charter of Human Rights" was discussed. Since the Conference was concerned with the possibility of entrenching in the Canadian constitution a char-

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ter incorporating the broad categories of human rights—political, legal, egalitarian, linguistic and economic—only those international conventions which enshrined the general principles governing human rights were submitted to the Conference as background material. With regard to social and economic rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which subsumes the subjects covered by the ILO Conventions was a Conference document.

It should be noted, however, that there is continuing consultation and frequent meetings between the federal and provincial governments at the Minister and Deputy Minister level dealing specifically with ILO matters, including ratification and implementation by the provinces of ILO Conventions. The next such Federal-Provincial meeting at the Deputy Minister level will convene in Ottawa from April 30-May 1 of this year.

NET DEBT OF FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

Question No. 1,274—**Mr. MacLean:**

1. (a) What was the net debt of the Government of Canada on the most recent date for which figures are available (b) what are the carrying charges for this net debt on the most recent date for which figures are available?

2. (a) What was the net debt of each of the ten provincial governments on the most recent date for which figures are available (b) what are the estimated annual charges of the debt for each of the provinces on the most recent date for which figures are available?

3. (a) What was the total net debt of Canadian municipalities, including school boards, on the most recent date for which figures are available (b) what are the estimated annual carrying charges for the debt referred to in Part (a)?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):
1. (a) As of March 31, 1969, \$17,335,837,990.
(b) For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1969, \$798,181,536.

2 and 3. The government does not have responsibility for (a) the net debt, and (b) annual carrying charges of provincial and municipal governments. Figures are published on this from time to time by the provincial governments and municipalities, and by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

HOUSING AND APARTMENT STARTS, 1969

Question No. 1,312—**Mr. Orlikow:**

1. How many houses were begun by builders in urban centres in 1969 and, of this number, how many were begun in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto,