

FINANCE

AMOUNT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PAYMENTS
ESTIMATED FOR 1975

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the obvious revision of the financial resources available to the government and to the economy, would the minister advise the House as to the revised figure he has arrived at respecting the cash requirements of the government for unemployment insurance payments in the fiscal year 1975, in light of the government's obligations? Will this figure possibly exceed the \$2 billion reached in 1972?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will look into that.

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● (1440)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REFERENCE OF REPORTS ON WIRETAPPING TO STANDING
COMMITTEE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General a question on a serious subject. Before I do, without raising an official point of order I should like to draw attention to the fact that the reports filed under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the privacy act were distributed to the press at about 2.30 or 3 p.m. yesterday afternoon, and no copies were delivered to members of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Nowlan: While I know the image of the Solicitor General needs all the help it can get, I do not believe this insult to parliament should go unmentioned. I hope that future reports filed with respect to legislation will at least be delivered to members of parliament at the same time as they are sent to the august body up above.

My question obviously refers to the reports filed on wiretapping. In light of the assessment made in the final paragraph of one of the reports and the difficulty set out in that report in relation to the implementation of the act, is the minister prepared to refer both these reports forthwith to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, in order that any necessary changes for the proper administration of justice can be studied and implemented?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): First, on the point of order I want to say the law requires these reports to be tabled in the House of Commons under the rules of the House. They were prepared accordingly and that was done. It was done on Monday without my knowledge. The procedure is carried out through the office of the Clerk of the House and the reports are then printed in *Votes and Proceedings*. As soon as I found that this had been done, I advised those who I thought were the principal critics in the opposition parties.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: In the Conservative Party, I advised the hon. member for Fundy-Royal, telling him I would make copies available, and in the New Democratic Party I advised the hon. member for New Westminster and the hon. member for Broadbent.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Before this non-point of order becomes any more complicated, may I say I have credited the question period with the amount of time taken by speakers on both sides, and perhaps we should return to the answer itself.

Mr. Allmand: I meant the hon. member for Broadview, not Broadbent. With respect to the question asked by the hon. member, I would say that several other reports are due on the same subject. Wiretaps relating to the Criminal Code are usually carried out under provincial attorneys general who report on the administration of this legislation across the country. I do not think we should refer this subject to a committee or take any action until we have received all the reports on wiretapping; they must be tabled at the end of the calendar year. In the meantime I will take the hon. member's suggestion into consideration.

Mr. Nowlan: I can understand, now, why the Solicitor General has so many escapees across the country: he does not know who are the spokesmen on the subject on this side of the House. I have a two-part supplementary to direct to the hon. gentleman. Can he assure the House that none of the 339 warrants authorized under the Official Secrets Act and 249 authorized under the privacy act was issued with respect to any of the members of this House? With respect to the 339 warrants issued under the Official Secrets Act, can the minister tell us how many are related to foreign subversive activity and how many are related to internal subversive activity?

Mr. Allmand: With respect to authorizations under the Official Secrets Act—those are the ones I must authorize, in accordance with the law—none was issued with respect to any of the members of this House. Warrants issued under the Criminal Code or in connection with criminal matters are usually authorized by judges, and I do not know whether any were authorized with respect to members of parliament. However, to my knowledge there were none; but then I would not be made aware of any. The hon. member is asking me, in the latter part of his question, for more information than the law requires me to report. I will look into that aspect and see whether I can provide him with the information.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PRESENT CONTRIBUTION RATES TO BE MAINTAINED

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Given the fact that increasing unemployment and higher benefits affect the contributions of workers and employers, and noting that the minister in his last statement dealt with what we call an