

efficient and equitable payments system. The Working Group responsible for preparing these recommendations was chaired by the Director, Capital Markets Division, Department of Finance. The Working Group's recommendations were presented to Cabinet jointly by the Ministers of Finance and Communications. Subsequent to their evaluation by Cabinet, the government, in January 1975, published a position paper entitled "Towards an Electronic Payments system—A Statement of Government Policy concerning Computer/Communications and the Payments System." In this paper, the government announced its support for a common user communications network for the payments system and the creation of four committees with responsibility to make recommendations relating to an electronic payments system: 1. Interdepartmental Steering Committee on the Electronic Payments System. This Committee, chaired by the Director, Capital Markets Division, Department of Finance, is responsible for the overall coordination of government policy on the electronic payments system, including the maintenance of liaison with Committees 2, 3 and 4 as described below. (a) In addition to the chairman from the Department of Finance, this committee includes representatives from the Bank of Canada and the Departments of Communications, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Supply and Services, and Justice. (b) The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communications. In addition, each departmental representative reports to his or her Minister. (c) January 1975. (d) No expiry date. (e) No report to date. (f) Not applicable.

2. The Canadian Payments System Standards Group (CPSSG), a private sector committee, whose mandate is to develop standards and performance criteria that would be used in a common-user communications network for the payments system. (a) The CPSSG is made up of representatives from deposit-taking institutions, common carriers and computer equipment manufacturers and others, as required, including retailers. It is chaired by Mr. Roger Charbonneau of L'école des Hautes études, Montreal, whose services are provided through the auspices of the Bank of Canada. (b) The CPSSG reports to the Interdepartmental Steering Committee on the Electronic Payments System. (c) January 1975. However, the chairman was not appointed until September 25, 1975 and the Group's first meeting was not held until April 27, 1976. (d) No expiry date. (e) No report to date. Interim report expected by December 31, 1976. (f) Not applicable.

3. Justice Study on Legal and Consumer Issues. This Study is being conducted under the leadership of the Department of Justice and is charged with the responsibility to ensure that the legal and consumer aspects are considered and the legal framework for the payments system evolves in line with new payments methods. This Study is being conducted in consultation with interested parties, including the Departments of Finance, Communications, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Supply and Services, the Bank of Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (a) See above. (b) The Minister of Justice. (c) January 1975. (d) No expiry date. Interim report is

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expected by December 31, 1976. (e) No report to date. (f) Not applicable.

4. Committee on Credit/Payment Cards. This committee, chaired by an officer of the Capital Markets Division, Department of Finance, was established to examine the financial markets structure and composition policy aspects of generalized credit card systems and payment cards. (a) This Committee, in addition to the chairman, includes representatives from the Bank of Canada and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the Department of Justice. (b) The Minister of Finance. (c) January 1975. (d) No expiry date. (e) No report to date.

COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS

Question No. 686—Mr. Hnatyshyn:

What will be the nature of the participation of the government in negotiations and discussions which will take place during the next two and one-half years on the world commodity pact agreements which took place at the recent UNCTAD IV Conference in Kenya?

Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Canada will take an active part in consultations and negotiations both on the individual commodities which were listed for priority attention at UNCTAD IV earlier this year, and on a Common Fund or other financing mechanism. The extent and level of our participation in individual meetings will vary according to the significance for Canada and for the developing countries of the commodity concerned. We shall be guided by the principle that both producers and consumers should be represented in any commodity agreements or associations resulting from these negotiations, and we shall continue to support the principle of joint producer-consumer responsibility for buffer stock financing within commodity agreements which establish such stocks.

STAFF IN OFFICE OF MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Question No. 693—Mr. Fortin:

What (a) are the names (b) were the description of duties (c) were the annual salaries of persons employed in the office of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (i) on July 8, 1974 (ii) since July 8, 1974?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs—as at October 18, 1976:

(i) Exempt Staff in Ministers' office as at July 8, 1974 (Hon. H. Gray).