

## Questions

of national interest and of concern to all hon. members. In determining whether the business of the House ought to be set aside for the purpose of considering such an important and urgent situation, the Chair has to be guided by certain criteria specified in Standing Order 26. One of these requirements is that the matter proposed for discussion should relate to an emergency which calls for immediate and urgent consideration by the House. In other words, it is not only urgency of the matter which has to be considered but the urgency of debate.

While I surmise that the House would want an opportunity to discuss this problem, I doubt that the urgency of the situation would require that the debate be held today or tomorrow rather than later. If the Chair considers the additional factor of opportunity of debate within a reasonable period of time, I would suggest to the hon. member that from the procedural standpoint an immediate emergency debate would hardly be justified.

Therefore, in view of all relevant circumstances the Chair suggests that the adjournment motion should not be put at this time.

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE—SEPARATISTS IN CANADIAN FORCES

##### Question No. 1,229—Mr. Coates:

Has the Minister of National Defence examined the statements of René Levesque, leader of the Parti Québécois, regarding members of the Armed Services in the Province of Quebec and, if so, is he in a position to provide information as to whether all members of the Armed Services have taken the oath of allegiance and, if they have, will any action be taken against them if they are known to be Separatists and advocate the separation of the Province of Quebec from the Dominion of Canada?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Statements purported to have been made by Mr. René Levesque regarding members of the Canadian forces in Quebec being separatists have been examined. All Canadian citizens, and British subjects other than Canadians, applying to join the Canadian forces are required to take the Oath of Allegiance upon enrolment. Other persons enrolled in the Canadian forces are required to take a special oath that includes the agreement to well and truly serve Her Majesty, in the Canadian forces. In addition, Queens Regulations and Orders stipulate that no officer or man of the regular force shall take an active part in the affairs of a political organization or party. What action would be taken against members of the Canadian forces who may become known to be active separatists and advocates of the separation of the Province of Quebec from Canada would depend upon the circumstances of each case.

[Mr. Speaker.]

#### INFORMATION CANADA

##### Question No. 1,498—Mr. Schumacher:

1. During the period 1970 to date did Information Canada sponsor any conferences or courses (a) at Grey Rocks Inn, St. Jovite, Quebec (b) elsewhere in Canada and at what locations?

2. What was the duration of these courses or conferences?

3. What was the nature and purpose of these courses or conferences, and what conclusions, if any, were reached?

4. What departments participated in each case?

5. In each case (a) how many employees of each department attended (b) what position does each one hold (c) what expenses were involved for (i) transportation (ii) accommodation (iii) meals and per diem expenses (iv) registrations or fees (d) what mode of transportation was involved for persons attending?

6. Did any expenses involve wives or families and, if so, (a) what was the amount in each case (b) who authorized such expenditures (c) what mode of transportation was involved?

7. In each case, for what reasons were the locations for the conferences chosen?

**Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of State):** 1. Information Canada sponsored two functions during the period 1970. (i) a conference at Grey Rocks Inn (ii) a seminar at La Réserve Inn At St. Donat.

2. The conference lasted three days; the course two days.

3. (i) Information Canada sponsored a conference at Grey Rocks Inn to bring together Information Directors of all Federal Government departments and agencies to outline existing and proposed programs of Information Canada. (ii) The two-day training course at La Réserve Inn was sponsored for new Enquiries Officers of Information Canada.

4. National Film Board; Science Council of Canada; National Defence; Secretary of State; Agriculture; External Affairs; Manpower and Immigration; Energy Mines and Resources; National Harbours Board; Prices and Income Commission; Fisheries and Forestry; Information Canada; Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Regional Economic Expansion; St. Lawrence Seaway; Dominion Bureau of Statistics; Communications; Post Office; Unemployment Insurance Commission; National Library; Emergency Measures Organization; National Revenue; Transport; Department of Supply and Services; Treasury Board; Veterans Affairs; Indian Affairs & Northern Development; Public Service Commission; Labour; International Development Agency; National Research Council; Industry Trade and Commerce; Solicitor General Department.

5. (a) Information Canada 10. Other departments generally one each. (b) Information Canada—Directors and Chiefs of Divisions. Other departments—Director of Information Services or representative. (c) (i) Average of \$20 for each delegate; (ii) and (iii) \$17.50 per day each for accommodation, meals, conference facilities and services. (iv) nil. (d) Private car and bus.

6. No.

7. Locations chosen as the most economical means of providing the required facilities.