

Order Paper Questions

provisions concerning public notices and announcements and to permit use of both official languages in all provinces in Canada. At present, this requirement is limited to Quebec. This bill also proposes the adoption of international symbols for railway crossings.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENTS DEALING WITH CRIME OF RAPE

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-52, to amend the Criminal Code and to amend certain other acts in relation thereto and in consequence thereof.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACTS

DURATION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-451, to amend the British North America Act, 1867 to 1978 (duration of House of Commons).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, this bill in effect would set a four-year term for parliament without curtailing the right of members to force an election earlier or later, if either is the desire of 100 members. I introduce this bill at this time because representation in this House is now being depleted very rapidly, and I think most hon. members would agree that it would be easy to find 100 members who would be in favour of having an election called if this bill were implemented.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,362, 1,376, 1,379 and 1,454.

[Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier).]

[Text]

GRANT TO POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE OF MONTREAL

Question No. 1,362—**Mr. Epp:**

1. Were any grants made to the Positive Action Committee of Montreal by the Department of the Secretary of State and, if so, for what specific purpose?
2. How many persons does the Committee employ and what amount of the grant will be paid to them for their employment?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): 1. Yes, a grant of \$50,000 has been approved of which \$20,000 has been paid in fiscal year 1977/78 and \$30,000 is earmarked for fiscal year 1978/79 subject to satisfactory completion of specific phases of the study. The organization is undertaking a study to assess the impact of current trends in Quebec upon the social, cultural and economic fabric of Montreal. This study is intended to provide a better understanding of the present situation and enable governments and citizens to act to maintain the vitality and bilingual nature of the city.

2. Assuming acceptance by the department of all phases of the study: Honoraria to about ten individuals who will direct committees and write reports: Amount, \$20,000; Student assistants (about ten): Amount \$10,000; Translation: Amount \$5,000; Preparation, typing, printing of surveys and draft reports and other miscellaneous expenses: Amount \$15,000; Total \$50,000.

CANADA STUDENT LOANS ACT

Question No. 1,376—**Mr. Dionne (Kamouraska):**

1. Since the passing of the Canada Student Loans Act, did the government give any fiscal compensation to the Province of Quebec and, if so, what was the (a) nature of the compensation (b) total amount?
2. How many students per province benefitted from a loan under the Act?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): 1. Yes. The government of Quebec opted out of the Canada Student Loans Act in 1964 and, under the provision of that act qualified for an "alternative payment". (a) The alternative payment is an amount obtained by multiplying the total net amount paid by the federal government to lenders in respect of interest charges and loss or death claims on loans issued by provinces participating in the program by the quotient obtained by dividing the 18/24 year old population of the opting out province by the 18/24 year old population in participating provinces for the year concerned. (b) To June 30, 1977, a total of \$76.2 million had been paid to the province of Quebec under the alternative payment provision.

2. A cumulative total of the number of students assisted by province is not available because many students receive aid from more than one province during their education. In the loan year 1976/77 assistance was authorized under the program to the following numbers of students by the provinces shown: British Columbia: 16,887; Alberta: 14,015; Saskatchewan: 5,069; Manitoba: 7,759; Ontario: 88,732; New Brunswick: 6,567; Nova Scotia: 9,471; Prince Edward Island: 1,458; Newfoundland: 4,888; Yukon: 80; Northwest Territories: 55; Total 154,981.