

Order Paper Questions

of Canada, (b) the purchase price was \$300 plus provincial tax, (c) the price of the coin in 1978 was \$150, (d) the coin will be used in an exhibit and paid at market price.

2. Numismatic coins purchased by the Mint in the past five years are as follows:

Denomination	Year Issued	Issued Price	Purchased Price	Seller	Year Purchased
\$ 1 (silver)	1935	\$ 1	\$ 16	Silver Dollar Reg'd	1982
\$ 1 (silver)	1939	\$ 1	\$ 16	Silver Dollar Reg'd	1982
\$ 1 (silver)	1949	\$ 1	\$ 16	Silver Dollar Reg'd	1982
\$ 1 (silver)	1958	\$ 1	\$ 12	Silver Dollar Reg'd	1982
\$ 1 (silver)	1964	\$ 1	\$ 11	Silver Dollar Reg'd	1982
\$100	1978	\$ 150	\$ 300	Coin Centre of Canada	1982

The above coins will be used in an exhibit which is being prepared and which will tour Germany for the next three years.

3. No, the Mint does not keep an inventory of every numismatic coin struck. One of each is transferred to the Bank of Canada National Currency Collection on a permanent loan basis. A small quantity of each numismatic coin struck is kept for a limited period following the issued year as potential replacement for coins returned by customers or coins lost or damaged in transit. Afterwards, the remaining numismatic coins are melted.

CANADIAN GENERAL STANDARDS BOARD

Question No. 4,632—**Mr. Fretz:**

1. Was non-confidential information from the Canadian General Standards Board recently sent out by registered mail at a cost of \$3.85, when the logical choice for such material would have been first class rates of 60 cents, and, if so (a) for what reason (b) how many envelopes were mailed at these rates?

2. Does the Minister feel these costs were justified, given the current economic climate?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. (a) The Canadian General Standards Board sends letters by registered mail when the nature of the contents indicates that this method is necessary. Most of the registered mail concerns the insulation contractors certification listing program. It involves information on applications for listing, examination information, certificates, notices of quality defects, legal documents and other notices. Since this mail affects a contractor's livelihood, it is important that CGSB knows whether or not the mail was received. It is particularly important at the early stages since some companies change addresses.

(b) The Canadian General Standards Board mails many thousands of letters per year, of which about 10 per cent are registered, for the reasons outlined in 1 (a). It is not possible to determine exactly how many letters are registered.

2. Yes, in view of the points noted in 1 (a).

[English]

Mr. Burghardt: Madam Speaker, I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT
(NO. 2)

MEASURE TO MODIFY BENEFIT INDEX

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-133, an Act to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2), as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates; and the motion of Mr. Gauthier (p. 22129)

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Madam Speaker, before lunch I referred to the complications that had arisen when the Government of the day in 1972, 1973 and 1974 introduced budgetary measures inspired by the so-called "Crown prince of the Liberal Party", John Turner. In my view and in the view of many people, he was responsible for the deep roots of inflation over those three years of heavy Government spending and for other measures that resulted in the partial wage and price controls of 1975.

The Bill before us is the Government's attempt to rectify some of those complications but it is directed at the wrong sector. With Family Allowances, social security and with the cap on the increase in the personal allowance in the Income Tax Act, nothing has been taken from the recipient, as is the case with this Bill. Under the Bill before us, the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act, a contribution of 1 per cent and then 1.5 per cent of salary is called for. It does not matter whether it is .25 per cent, an annual contribution was set down. A contract was established in law between the Crown of Canada and those particular classes of pensioners for a full indexation of pensions. Now the Government, acting unilaterally, wants to wipe that arrangement out for two years, to start with. After that it may want to continue with the 5 per cent cap. I say that is a distinct breach in law as well as a moral breach.

When the proposal for indexation was introduced, Old Age Security was the first to be affected. In 1973 we had the