

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the alleged point of order raised by my colleague is actually a question, a request on his part for us to consent to include in Supplementary Estimates (C) an item which would allow him to question the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) in committee. I remind him, Madam Speaker, that the procedure established for the consideration of supply provides that the main estimates be sent to the various committees for three months. We have just tabled the main estimates for the coming fiscal year. So, if the hon. member wants to ask the President of the Treasury Board questions relating to the estimates for the year which is about to end, I think he has had ample opportunity to do so in the appropriate committee. In fact, since we have had two elections in less than a year, he has had nine months instead of three to do so. Now, we are not forced to do so; as he has said himself, no item relates to the Treasury Board in Supplementary Estimates (C) and we do not have to include such an item. We will consider his request, but as I said, he has had more time than usual in the last year. Even though we have complied with the Standing Orders, I will nevertheless discuss his request with the President of the Treasury Board and report to him in due time.

[English]

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, if I may speak again on the same point of order, which is prompted by the House leader's comments. He says he will accept my word that the Treasury Board estimates are not referred to in Supplementary Estimates (C) which have just been tabled. It is not my word, it is his own motion. If he has not read his own motion I find it most amazing that he is proposing it.

My second point, Madam Speaker, is that the estimates he is referring to are next year's estimates—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the hon. member is entering into debate. His point of order is not justified.

I must ask the House if it is the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion of the President of the Privy Council.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): On a very short point of order, Madam Speaker. Can the President of the Privy Council assure the House that the references are in accordance with the usual practices and that there is nothing unusual about the committees to which the various items would be transmitted?

Mr. Pinard: Yes, Madam Speaker. In so far as I know everything is in accordance with usual practice. I assume my colleague had the opportunity in advance to look at the motion, and with his experience he would know that it is in accordance with practice.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.
Motion agreed to.

● (1550)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 22, 1,001, 1,971, 1,982, 2,060 and 2,090.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

FEATHERBED FILE

Question No. 22—**Mr. Cossitt:**

What are the names of all persons who authorized the commencement of the Featherbed File including any person in the RCMP, the public service or any government branch and the name of any person who ordered the file to become dormant or made the decision that it become dormant in 1974-75 and specifically, did the fact that the file was first raised in the House of Commons by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville at the approximate time the file became dormant have any connection with the state of dormancy?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): The names of all persons who authorized the commencement of the Featherbed File including any person in the RCMP, the public service or any government branch are kept confidential for reasons of national security, pursuant to the government's policy on access to information. The name of any person who ordered the file to become dormant or made the decision that it become dormant is also kept confidential for the same reason.

The fact that the file was first raised in the House of Commons by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville had no connection with its state of dormancy.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY RCMP COMMISSIONER ROBERT SIMMONDS

Question No. 1,001—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did RCMP Commissioner Robert Simmonds deliver an address, lecture, etc. to Toronto members of the RCMP and, if so (a) was it delivered at the Jarvis Street Divisional Headquarters in Toronto (b) how many members attended the address and how many remained until he had concluded his remarks?

2. Is there any indication of a morale problem in the RCMP Toronto area?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): 1. RCMP Commissioner Robert Simmonds attended a general meeting of south western Ontario area command security service members on February 8, 1980, at which he did address the members.

- (a) The meeting was held at the RCMP "O" division headquarters, 225 Jarvis Street, Toronto.
- (b) Approximately 240 members attended this general meeting. Approximately 232 members remained until the meeting ended, the other members had to leave to facilitate previous transportation arrangements.