

is comparing six months of this year with six months of last year. I have answered that, due to statutory and seasonal factors, these figures are not representative of this year and, consequently, they are probably not representative of last year.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, let me try one final supplementary question directed either to the Prime Minister or to his seatmate: it deals with expenditures in the Privy Council office, and I emphasize the office itself. In the six-month period, those expenditures have jumped \$7.4 million, an 86 per cent jump. For this year's six months compared to last year's six months, would the Prime Minister or his seatmate indicate why there has been such a sharp jump in Privy Council operating expenses?

● (1427)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wanted to have an answer to this, he could have given us notice.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: Seasonally adjusted.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member opposite, I believe sitting next to the hon. member for—is it Prince Albert—said something about seasonal adjustment. Yes, it so happens that this year there are expenditures, I believe relating to the McDonald commission and other royal commissions, which were not incurred in other years. It was under the Privy Council estimates that a lot of these new operations, for instance, the operation of setting up an institute for research into inflation and productivity—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: This institute was set up at the request of the ten premiers meeting here in Ottawa last February.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I do not know to what extent the expenditures are linked to this particular institute. I know it was set up at the request of the premiers and that the estimates come under the Privy Council office. If the hon. member really wants an answer to the question, and if his leader is interested in knowing facts, rather than fantasy, he can give me notice of such a question and I will provide the answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AIR TRANSPORT

HIRING OF CONSULTANTS OUTSIDE CANADA—POSSIBILITY OF CHARGES BEING LAID

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Minister of

Oral Questions

Justice. On October 16 I asked the minister a question concerning the Boeing revelations, payments to an agent in Canada which seem improper or illegal in nature under a so-called system of dual contracts.

Now that the minister has had two weeks to brief himself fully on this matter, can he tell the House whether Canada has requested assistance from the United States Department of Justice? When can we expect charges to be laid in connection with these incidents?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport and Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that we have not only requested, but have received, information and assistance from the United States. However, the investigation in relation to the information received is continuing and I cannot comment further on the question of what the results may be.

AUTHORITY FOR RCMP INVESTIGATION

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General. Will he tell the House who initiated the Royal Canadian Mounted Police probe into the Boeing revelations in Canada? Was it the Solicitor General himself, some other minister, or did the RCMP initiate it of its own volition? Can he tell us when he expects the RCMP report to be handed in?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member ought to know that any investigation relating to matters which may be questionable come strictly within the purview of the RCMP. If the RCMP decides that sufficient facts or allegations have been brought to its attention to conduct an investigation, they proceed with that investigation. I am pleased to advise the hon. member that an investigation is ongoing relating to the matter which he brought to the attention of the House.

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THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REVISE CONSTITUTION—TIMING VIS-À-VIS NEXT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Prime Minister: I do so with diffidence in view of the fact that he is so truculent and peevish today.

Arising out of the question asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and to determine whether or not I heard correctly, is the government intending to bring in any legislation in connection with the so-called plan which was evolved and placed before the Canadian people in general last July? Is it intended to bring any legislation before parliament covering Her Majesty the Queen or the Senate in advance of the next meeting of a dominion-provincial nature?