

Order Paper Questions

left the House after three o'clock. Under our rules the question period expires at three o'clock.

Mr. Stevens: The Speaker decides that.

Mr. MacEachen: The Prime Minister had been in his place for the whole question period. He took all the questions that were put to him. He looked at the clock and said that he had other obligations. I agreed with him that the question period, under our rules, was over—

Mr. Cossitt: The government makes its own rules.

Mr. MacEachen: —and therefore I believe it is most unfair for the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt) to continue this unjust, persistent, pernicious vendetta against the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Whether or not the Chair exercises any customary discretion in recognizing another questioner after three o'clock is something that the Chair will decide from time to time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: However, hon. members will realize that under any circumstances the presence in or absence from the Chamber, or departure from or entrance into the Chamber, of any minister or any other member at any time is not the subject of privilege.

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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 the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 238, 239 and 326.

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

[Text]

NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER CONTRACT TO PRIVY COUNCIL

Question No. 238—Mr. McKenzie:

1. What is the total number of persons under contract to the Privy Council Office and how many are retired public servants?
2. What was the total amount in (a) 1975 (b) 1976 paid to those under contract and how much of this was to retired public servants?

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Privy Council and Federal-Provincial Relations Offices are concerned: 1. Seventeen of which three are retired public servants.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

2. (a) 1974-75, \$167,547.16; three retired public servants, \$22,770; (b) 1975-76, \$504,542.65; four retired public servants, \$31,565.

NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER CONTRACT TO OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Question No. 239—Mr. McKenzie:

1. What is the total number of persons under contract to the Office of the Prime Minister and how many are retired public servants?
2. What was the total amount in (a) 1975 (b) 1976 paid to those under contract and how much of this was to retired public servants?

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1. Eight (none are retired public servants).

2. (a) 1974-75, \$44,442.57; one retired public servant, \$26,797.12; (b) 1975-76, \$77,246.46; none were retired public servants.

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA—PERSONNEL EMPLOYED FROM PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Question No. 326—Mr. McKenzie:

1. Has the National Museums of Canada obtained (a) part-time (b) full-time employees from private employment agencies in (i) British Columbia (ii) Alberta (iii) Saskatchewan (iv) Manitoba (v) Ontario (vi) Quebec (vii) New Brunswick (viii) Nova Scotia (ix) Prince Edward Island (x) Newfoundland and, if so, in each case, how many?
2. Are such employees paid from supplementary estimates and, if not, from what estimates are they paid?
3. By province, what was the (a) average hourly rate paid to employment agencies (b) average hourly rate paid to employees (c) total amount paid by the National Museums of Canada in (i) 1975 (ii) 1976?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): I am informed by the National Museums as follows: 1. No.

2. Not applicable.

3. Not applicable.

[English]

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I realize it is early in the session and one might not ordinarily expect questions to be answered so soon, but two of my questions have been on the order paper almost since the beginning of the last session. They are now on the order paper again so the government has had plenty of time to get answers to the two questions.

I refer first to question No. 48 which is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and pertains to a statement that he made in Brighton, Ontario, in which he said, "I use Department of Defence planes quite a bit because I'm an honorary colonel." The question simply asks: does the Department of National Defence permit honorary colonels—and there are many of them—to use their aircraft at will and, if so, how many honorary colonels are there? I think that is a matter of record, and that we should know whether the Minister of Agriculture is able to commandeer an aircraft of the Department of National Defence simply because he is an honorary colonel.