

an individual farmer with low income has lower tax rates than corporations and is entitled to special averaging provisions.

UIC—USE OF COMPUTERS TO PROVIDE STATISTICS ON
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

Question No. 546—**Mr. Herbert:**

Is it the intention of the government to revise the computer systems used by the Department of Manpower and Immigration to provide up-to-date information on (a) the precise number of persons drawing unemployment benefits (b) the number included in this total who are drawing (i) sickness benefits (ii) maternity benefits (c) the number of persons whose eligibility period for benefits has expired?

Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): In so far as the Unemployment Insurance Commission is concerned: Statistics Canada is the official source of statistics on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Negotiations between Statistics Canada and the Unemployment Insurance Commission are currently under way to specify the precise computer systems requirements for the publication of statistics on the actual number of beneficiaries of the various types of benefits under the program and termination of claims. These data can be expected to appear in Statistics Canada's publications in 1975.

INCOME TAX—CONSIDERATION OF DEDUCTION OF TAX FOR
SMALL FARMER

Question No. 577—**Mr. Herbert:**

Will the Minister of Finance consider financial assistance to the small farmer by permitting a limited direct deduction from federal taxes of paid municipal and school taxes?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Farmers like businessmen may deduct municipal and school taxes paid from their income to the extent that these are a business and not a personal expense. Therefore, no consideration is being given to provide a direct deduction from federal taxes.

CHARTERED BANKS

Question No. 579—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. Are chartered banks prevented by the Bank Act from acting in a fiduciary capacity?
2. Has the Minister of Finance received any indication that banks exercise control in such a capacity over pension funds and the funds of other investors?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): 1. It would be deemed beyond the powers of a bank under the Bank Act to act in a fiduciary capacity.

2. No.

SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT—AMOUNT OF LOANS

Question No. 611—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. What was the maximum rate of interest that was determined on October 1, 1974 under the small Businesses Loans Act?
2. How much money was lent under this Act in July and August of this year?

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Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): 1. The maximum rate of interest was 10 per cent.

2. In July \$1,897,537 and August \$1,756,760 was lent under the Small Businesses Loans Act. (Figures are as reported by lenders up to October 18, 1974).

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO—BRUCE PUBLIC TRANSPORT STUDY

Question No. 623—**Mr. Beatty:**

1. What was the cost to the Canadian Transport Commission of the survey of individuals in Southwestern Ontario described in the third part of the Midwestern Ontario-Bruce Public Transport Study?

2. What was the purpose of identifying respondents in the survey by electoral district?

3. On what date was a copy of the report first transmitted by CTC to the Minister of Transport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): 1. The total cost to the Canadian Transport Commission of the survey of individuals in midwestern Ontario was \$29,300. It was made up of the following elements: Fieldwork, \$19,600; Data processing, \$4,750; Administration, co-ordination, questionnaire designs, etc. \$4,950.

2. Respondents in the survey were identified by Census Enumeration Areas (the smallest rural statistical geographic unit for which census information is available, thereby providing the best basis on which to locate respondents and conduct analyses). The coding numbers for enumeration areas are duplicated within electoral districts; therefore the electoral districts must be known to identify the enumeration area and hence the respondent.

3. A copy of the third part of the study was first transmitted to the Minister of Transport on April 24, 1974.

FREIGHT RATE FREEZE

Question No. 675—**Mr. Horner:**

In the freight rate freeze that was announced at the Western Economic Conference (a) what was the total amount paid to the transportation companies because of the freeze (b) how much did each company receive (c) were these companies subsidized under the same formula as the Freight Rate Reduction Act and, if not, what formula was used?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): (a) The total amount paid to the transportation companies because of the freeze is \$40,689,251.45 in accounts of year 1973. (b) The following companies received the following amounts: Canadian National, \$27,000,000.00; Canadian Pacific, \$13,000,000.00; Ontario Northland Transportation Co., \$51,526.00; Northern Alberta Railways Co., \$634,536.00; Napierreville Junction Railways, \$3,189.45; Total, \$40,689,251.45. (c) No, they were paid in respect of lost revenues.

MONCTON, N.B.—RAIL RELOCATION

Question No. 678—**Mr. Jones:**

1. Has the Canadian Transport Commission received an application from the City of Moncton for rail-line relocation and, if so, what steps have been taken to act on the application?

2. What financial assistance is available to the City of Moncton for rail-line relocation?