

of Statistics reports that: The pre-tax profits of corporations in Canada, less the losses of companies incurring losses, in 1967 and 1968 are estimated to be \$5,020 million and \$5,877 million in the two years, respectively—a year-to-year increase of 17.1 per cent. This information is based upon a sample of corporations, and may be revised when more complete data become available at a later date. This measure of profits is a component in the measurement of gross national production and excludes dividends received from other Canadian companies to avoid the overstatement of profits on a national basis that would result.

## AURELE DE FOY SUZOR-COTE STAMP

Question No. 1,914—**Mr. Nesbitt:**

For what reason did the Post Office issue the Aurele de Foy Suzor-Cote commemorative stamp in a fifty cent denomination rather than in one of the lower and more frequently used denominations of six to ten cents?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned: Canada Post Office has been issuing commemorative postage stamps in various denominations periodically since the Diamond Jubilee issues in 1897. In 1967 following the release of the current definitive eight cents to \$1 stamps illustrating the works of such renowned Canadian artists as A. Y. Jackson and Tom Thomson, criticism was directed at the monochrome reproduction of these paintings, which was a manufacturing limitation at that time. The Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Côté commemorative stamp was produced by a new printing process which enabled the reproduction of his painting in its natural colours. It is considered that this stamp is one of the most colourful and attractive postage stamps issued by the Post Office and it was felt that a 50 cents denomination would be much more appropriate than one of the lower denominations.

## \*GREECE—CONCERN OF CANADA AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Question No. 1,964—**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):**

1. At the NATO Ministerial meeting held in Washington last week, did the Canadian Government make strong representations denouncing the military Greek Government for violating the European human rights convention through oppression and torture and, if not, for what reason?

2. Did any other member countries of NATO express their concern regarding activities of the military Government of Greece?

## Questions

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No. In the view of the Government, the Washington meeting was not a suitable occasion on which to comment on such matters.

There was no specific reference to Greece or its government in the statements of any of the representatives at the Washington meeting.

[English]

## HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Question No. 1,967—**Mr. Lundrigan:**

1. Has the Department of National Health and Welfare moved field officers in the Programme Administration category to the Head Office of the Canada Pension Plan Administration in Ottawa?

2. If so (a) are these transfers of a temporary nature (b) for what reason were they made (c) are these officers filling the terms of reference for which they were hired, and (d) what was the total cost of these re-assignments in travelling expenses and other related costs?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. The Department of National Health and Welfare did not move field officers in the Program Administration category to the Head Office of the Canada Pension Plan Administration in Ottawa on a permanent basis.

2. (a) For about a year, however, it was necessary to utilize the services of some field officers in Ottawa for short periods of time. These assignments usually lasted for three weeks and usually involved eight to ten officers at a time. (b) This temporary assignment of field officers was authorized so that they might assist in processing the large backlogs of applications which occurred after survivor benefits first became payable in February 1968 and when the eligible age for retirement pensions was reduced to age 67 in January 1968, and to age 66 in January 1969. If this had not been done substantial delays would have occurred before payments could have been made to applicants. This was also the only way in which these temporary backlogs could be cleared quickly without hiring additional permanent staff. A secondary reason for bringing these field officers to Ottawa was to expose them to the detailed procedures involved in the processing of claims and to give them some insight into other operations at Headquarters. (c) It is