

### Order Paper Questions

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** Trips made by A. Fortier when he was Assistant Under Secretary of State: (a) Paris (\$1,149)—To attend meetings of the International Council of the French Language and of the Joint Commission, and to meet people involved in cultural fields, September and October, 1971; (b) New York (\$163)—Meeting with Lou Harris & Associates—to develop a research program for the arts, March, 1972.

#### PURPOSES OF TRIPS MADE BY E. A. CÔTÉ, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL, 1971-72

**Question No. 3,279—Mr. Knight:**

1. In the fiscal year 1971-72, what were the purposes of the trips made by E. A. Côté, Deputy Solicitor General (salary range: \$37,500-\$40,000), to (a) Washington (\$154) (b) Mexico (\$414) (c) Ivory Coast (\$1,545)?

2. In what months of the year were these trips made?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** 1. (a) To attend Tripartite Conference on Narcotic Control; Canada-Mexico-U.S.A. (b) To attend Tripartite Conference on Narcotic Control; Canada-Mexico-U.S.A. (c) To attend a Seminar on the Scientific Methods Used in the Search for Truth, in Abidjan, January 10-16, 1972.

2. (a) October 1971, (b) March 1972, (c) January 1972.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFIT ACT

**Question No. 3,300—Mr. Forrestall:**

1. What percentage of persons in receipt of Public Service Superannuation are eligible for benefit under the Public Service Supplementary Retirement Benefit Act as of November 30, 1973 (a) including those affected by recent changes in relevant legislation (b) excluding those newly brought under the legislation?

2. What are the absolute figures for the above?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** 1. All persons in receipt of pensions under the Public Service Superannuation Act are eligible for benefits under the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act. Payment of these benefits begins on the January 1 following the year of retirement or, in the case of death before retirement, payment of widows' and children's benefits begins on the January 1 following the year of death. The recent amendments to the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act did not change the eligibility of such persons but will increase the size of their benefits effective January 1, 1974.

2. Not applicable.

#### OVERPAYMENTS OF WELFARE ALLOWANCES

**Question No. 3,333—Mr. Godin:**

Since the government pays half of all welfare allowances, what is its share when provincial governments recover overpayments due to fraud or error?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** When the provincial governments recover overpayments caused by fraud or administrative error, 50 per cent of such recoveries are credited to Canada by means of a credit entry in the next monthly claim statement.

[Mr. Knight.]

#### CBC—FREE-TIME MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH RIGHT OF REPLY BY THE OPPOSITION

**Question No. 3,337—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

For what reason or reasons does the government not intend to take any action to apply in Canada the rules applied to the BBC and independent television in Great Britain establishing a category of free-time ministerial announcements to which there is a formal right of reply by the opposition?

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** In so far as the Department of Communications is concerned: The Broadcasting Act requires that the programming of the Canadian broadcasting system should, amongst other things, provide reasonable balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern. Generally, broadcasters seem to adhere in their programming to this general requirement of the act. A specific rule such as that referred to did not appear to be required when the Broadcasting Act was passed in 1968. In so far as the Department of the Secretary of State is concerned: Broadcasting policy for Canada as set out in Part I of the Broadcasting Act requires that programming provided by the Canadian broadcasting system should provide reasonable balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern. For example, it is the practice of the CBC, the national broadcasting service, to provide access for matters of urgent importance to the Prime Minister and the premiers of the provinces. Should these broadcasts be viewed as not non-partisan, the CBC reserves the right to offer the combined opposition the right of reply. Opposition parties have the right to demand this free time of the CBC should it, for some reason, not be offered. The government, therefore, does not see any need to impose specific rules such as those referred to in the question.

#### ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS Nos. 2,316, 2,598, 2,599, 2,600, 2,601

**Question No. 3,364—Mr. Cossitt:**

With reference to Questions Nos. 2,316, 2,598, 2,599, 2,600 and 2,601, on what exact date and time were these received by the Privy Council Office, who received them, what are the names and job designations of those to whom they were assigned for the purpose of compiling answers, has the Privy Council Office at any time attempted to expedite the answers and, if so, on what specific dates?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** See reply to Question No. 3,366 relative to the Parliamentary Enquiries and Co-ordination Division of the P.C.O. Question No. 2,316 was referred to the appropriate official in the P.C.O. by the Parliamentary Enquiries and Co-ordination Division on June 21, 1973. The time frame in which questions are answered varies depending on workload, time involved in compiling statistics, research, etc. In each instance an endeavour is made to answer questions as expeditiously as possible. However, one must bear in mind that questions are an addition to the usual workload of divisions and sections and there are times when other duties devolving on officers responsible take priority. Questions Nos. 2,598, 2,599 and 2,600 required statistical information from D.P.W. and/or N.C.C. Question No. 2,601 required information from D.P.W., N.C.C. and P.C.O.