Questions

CANADIAN POLICY TOWARD GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Question No. 638—**Mr. Macquarrie:**

1. Is the government considering granting MFN (most favoured nation) tariff treatment to the German Democratic Republic?

2. Is the government considering the admission into Canada of trade commissioners from the German Democratic Republic?

3. Is the government considering changing its policy of refusing to grant visas to journalists from the German Democratic Republic?

4. Has the government been in negotiation with the German Democratic Republic regarding the above three matters?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the departments of External Affairs, Industry, Trade and Commerce and Manpower and Immigration, as follows: 1. For the past two years, the Government has sought through unofficial means to put our trade with the GDR on a MFN (most favoured nation) basis.

2. An unofficial arrangement providing mutual MFN treatment would facilitate consideration of any proposal for the establishment of an unofficial East German trade office in Canada.

3. The Government has no policy of refusing visas to East German journalists. They come under the same regulations as any other visitor from the German Democratic Republic.

4. Since Canada does not recognize the German Democratic Republic, there can be no contact at the governmental level. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is, however, aware of our position on these three questions.

*RAILWAY ACT—PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR BETTER FENCING OF RIGHTS OF WAY

Question No. 622—**Mr. Ryan:**

Is the Minister of Transport considering amending the Railway Act to provide funds for better fencing of rights of way in urban areas for protection of the public?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, section 214 of the Railway Act deals with "fences, gates and cattle-guards" at railway crossings. For the time being the Department of Transport is not considering an amendment to the Railway Act in that respect.

[*English*]

TAXATION OF STRIKE PAY

Question No. 691—**Mr. Robinson:**

Is any consideration being given to the inclusion of strike pay as income for taxation purposes?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): This is a matter of government policy. Should the government decide to include strike pay as income for taxation purposes, it would be announced in the appropriate manner.

[Mr. Jerome.]

CORPORATION AND LABOUR UNIONS RETURNS ACT REPORT, 1968

Question No. 705—**Mr. Blair:**

1. Was the 1968 Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act Report on Labour Unions reprinted after it had been approved for Tabling in Parliament in order to delete critical references to international unions?

2. Were any representations received from international unions requesting the alteration of the Report?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Statistics Canada reports that: 1. No. The Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act Report, Part II—1968—which summarizes returns made by labour unions under the Act was completed in draft form and printed while the Dominion Statistician was out of the country. It was held for review and approval of the Dominion Statistician on his return. Some parts of the textual material of the report were not considered to be appropriate and therefore it became necessary to amend the text and correct some typographical errors before presentation to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce for tabling in Parliament. No charts or other summary tables were altered or deleted from the original draft on which the analyses were based.

2. At no time between the original drafting of the report and tabling in Parliament was there any discussion concerning content of the report with anyone connected with any union organizations nor were any copies of the original draft made available to any union officials or organizations.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES IN RICHMOND CONSTITUENCY

Question No. 59—**Mr. Beaudoin:**

1. Since 1960, what was the total amount spent or invested by the federal government in the constituency of Richmond?

2. What projects have been carried out or are planned?

3. Where are they located?

4. What amount is invested by the federal government in each project?

5. Does the government intend to spend money in the constituency of Richmond in the near future and, if so, how much and in what areas?

Return tabled.

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRMS COMMISSIONED BY GOVERNMENT

Question No. 148—**Mr. Orlikow:**

What public relations firms and economic and social research organizations commissioned by government departments, agencies or Crown corporations have been hired or given contracts to produce pamphlets, brochures, economic surveys, etc., to explain government policies to the public and (a) by what department or agency were they hired (b) for what specific task were they hired (c) what amount did they receive (d) was the firm chosen by asking for tenders and, if not, how was the choice made?

Return tabled.