

*Order Paper Questions*

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Question No. 2,703—**Mr. Herbert:**

With reference to the answer to Question No. 2,136, of the 20% of postal volume that comes from individuals, has it been estimated what percentage is addressed to business and institutions?

**Mr. Raynald Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General):** 54 per cent.

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## QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE—TRAVEL  
EXPENDITURESQuestion No. 706—**Mr. Stevens:**

1. In each fiscal year ending March 31, 1972, 1973 and 1974, and for the six month period ending September 30, 1974, what was the aggregate expenditure by the Department of the Secretary of State for travel abroad by (a) the Secretary of State and his immediate staff (b) departmental staff (c) the staff of boards, commissions, tribunals, Crown corporations or other similar agencies reporting to the Minister (d) others whose expenses were paid in part or in whole directly or indirectly by the government?

2. In the case of an expenditure in excess of \$200 (a) what was the purpose of the foreign trip (b) what was the furthest destination (c) what is the name of the person(s) who took the trip (d) how long was the person(s) outside the country (e) what was the nature of the expenditure (f) how many others were in the party making the trip?

Return tabled.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Mr. Speaker, for the sixth time I rise on the same point of order. I have not received any response from the government to similar points of order raised in the past. I feel that I am entitled to ask when I may expect an answer to the first five questions on the order paper. They have been on the order paper for over one year—they were included in the order paper in the previous parliament—and have not been answered. They are straightforward questions. In them I ask for information concerning trips the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has made. These could be readily answered, yet no matter how many times I raise this point of order the parliamentary secretary sits there either saying nothing or making the silly statement to the effect that the questions will be answered soon. I do not know how soon is soon. I think it is time for the government to get down to business and answer questions which opposition members put on the order paper some time ago.

Before I sit down may I draw the attention of the House to questions No. 1686 and 1687 which concern the swimming pool at Sussex Drive. They have been on the order paper for some time and seek information concerning the involvement of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in the pool cover-up. I have raised this matter three or four times with the parliamentary secretary and it is time I had some assurance as to when these questions will be answered. I do not think members of the House should have to sit here, day after day, and see the government bamboozling, covering up and hiding legitimate information from the people of Canada. The Acting Prime Minister laughs. I assure him this is no laughing matter. It is time we got answers in this House.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members will be delighted to know that, as of this afternoon, a total of 80.3 per cent of questions placed on the order paper have been answered.

● (1510)

## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[Translation]

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the notices of motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## THE BUDGET

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Monday, June 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the economic performance of any government, and certainly of any Minister of Finance, it is necessary to look at a period of years, not just one year. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) has been in his present portfolio since January, 1972. During that period he has brought in five budgets, including the one last Monday night. This gives us an opportunity to review the success or failure of this minister's and this government's economic policies. Unfortunately, the record is a sad one.

Since this minister took office, the cost of living, measured by the consumer price index, has increased 32.6 per cent in the 40 month period. I would contrast that with the 40 months previous to the minister gaining power when the inflation rate was 14.6 per cent, which at that time was up sharply from the inflation rates of the Diefenbaker-Pearson years.

We believe there is little in this budget to reverse the dangerous inflationary trend that has accelerated under the minister. In fact the budget is inflationary in many respects with its increased deficits and its gasoline tax, but more about that later.

There was a 6.6 per cent real growth in the first quarter of 1972, which is when the minister took over, compared to the first quarter of 1971. There was a negative 2 per cent