

*Judges Act*Question No. 1,764—**Mr. Stevens:**

For the current fiscal year, what are the estimated expenditures of the Department of Transport for (a) advertising (b) free or subsidized publications (c) other information conveyed to the public?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): (a) \$1,157,000; (b) \$866,000; (c) \$552,000.

[English]

Mr. Collette: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

JUDGES ACT

MEASURE TO INCREASE SALARIES OF JUDGES

The House resumed from Friday, December 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-34, to amend the Judges Act and certain other acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, and on the amendment of Mr. Knowles (p. 5730).

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, the portion of the bill I should like to address my remarks to, and which I began the other day, is that portion making provision for 20 new judiciary positions. The reason I am anxious to address my remarks to this section in particular is partly that it has not yet been considered, but chiefly because it is of great importance to the women of this country.

At the moment there are 657 federally appointed judges in Canada, of whom 20 are women, that is, 3 per cent are women. Of the 20 who are women all but two have been appointed since 1971. During this same period since January 1, 1971, almost a ten-year period, the total number of judges appointed has been 418. The 18 women constitute 4.3 per cent of the number of judges appointed by the federal government in the past ten years. Of these 18, plus the two others who were appointed before 1971, eight are county and district court judges, eleven are superior and supreme court judges in the provinces, and one is an appeal court judge. That one, of course, is the most senior of the 20 and, as hon. members know, is the hon. Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé of the Quebec Appeal Court.

• (1530)

None of the appointments which were made in the decade of the seventies were to the Supreme Court of Canada. Since the

origin of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1875 there has been an absolute male preference in the 59 appointments which have been made.

The first woman in the British Empire actually to be admitted to the practice of law was admitted in Canada, in Ontario. She was Clara Brett Martin. She was admitted to the practice of law in Ontario in 1897. Since that time no woman lawyer has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, something which led the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in its February, 1970, report to recommend that the federal government name more women judges to all courts within its jurisdiction. Even since this recommendation, as I have already pointed out, so few were appointed that of all the appointments made in the 1970s only 4.3 per cent were women, and of the eight appointed by the federal government to the Supreme Court of Canada all have been men.

I would like also to point out that there are at the present time no women superior or supreme court judges in six provinces. Those provinces are Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The amendment in this bill to the Judges Act providing for 20 additional judicial positions can go a long way toward rectifying this situation at least in three of the provinces where there are now no women judges in the superior or supreme courts, because for Manitoba there will be one additional judge on the Court of Queen's Bench. For Saskatchewan provision is being made for two additional judges on the court of appeal and two additional judges on the Court of Queen's Bench.

For Alberta there will be a new position of associate chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, and there will be four additional justices of the Court of Queen's Bench. The other new provisions for judges are one additional district court judge for Newfoundland, one additional superior court judge for Quebec, three additional country and district court judges for Ontario, one additional judge on the British Columbia court of appeal, two additional county court judges in British Columbia as well as an additional judge on the supreme court of the Yukon Territory and one additional judge on the supreme court of the Northwest Territories.

During the meetings of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs a few weeks ago the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien)—and I am glad to see that he is in the House—said that more women are becoming lawyers but that there are often no qualified women candidates when judges are needed. I wonder if the Minister of Justice really examined the very large number of outstanding women who are qualified for judicial appointments because, if he had examined the number and their qualifications—even taking into consideration the ten-year rule, that is to say, one should have been practising law for ten years before being appointed a judge—he would have found a very large number of women in every province of Canada who are qualified.

Indeed, there are outstanding women. When the minister said that there are no qualified women candidates when judges are needed, I wonder if what he meant was that there are not