Order Paper Questions

TRANSFER OF VETERANS HOSPITALS TO PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Question No. 374-Mr. Schumacher:

- 1. How many Veterans Hospitals have been turned over by the government to provincial government responsibility?
- 2. In each case, where was the hospital located and on what date was responsibility transferred?
- 3. How many other Veterans Hospitals will be turned over to provincial authority?
- 4. In each case, where are they located and what is the proposed date of transfer?
- 5. In each of the hospitals already transferred to provincial jurisdiction, how many employees had to resign their federal positions and re-apply to the province?
- 6. How much severance pay was given in each case by the government?
- 7. In each of the hospitals still to be transferred from federal to provincial authority, how many employees will be expected to resign their federal positions?
- 8. What is the projected amount of severance pay which the government will be required to pay in each case?
- 9. Was superannuation paid to any of the hospital employees by the government resigning their federal positions?
- 10. What was the federal share of such payments in each case?
- 11. Will superannuation be paid to employees who will be resigning federal positions when their federal employment is transferred to provincial jurisdiction?
 - 12. What is the projected amount of federal payments in each case?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): 1. Four.

- 2. Ste. Foy Hospital, Quebec, P.Q., September 1, 1968. Lancaster Hospital, Saint John, N.B., November 15, 1972. Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., July 29, 1974. Veterans Hospital, Victoria, B.C., August 26, 1974.
- 3. It is the policy of the federal government to transfer DVA veterans' hospitals to the community in which the hospital is situated. This is a continuing policy.
- 4. DVA operates hospitals in Halifax, Montreal, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, London, Winnipeg and Calgary. It is intended, according to established government policy, to transfer these hospitals to provincial jurisdiction when the community authorities are ready to accept ownership.
- 5. No employees have resigned their federal positions and none will be asked to resign in any future transfer of a veterans' hospital.
- 6. The amount of severance pay given in each case is determined under the terms of collective agreements negotiated under the provisions of the Public Service Staff Relations Act which are binding on both the Public Service as the employer and the employees. Ste. Foy Hospital, Quebec, P.Q., Nil; Lancaster Hospital, Saint John, N.B., \$673,892.61; Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., projected, \$3 million; Veterans Hospital, Victoria, B.C., projected, \$1 million.
 - 7. See answer to Part 5.
- 8. It is impossible to project the amount of severance pay which the government will be required to pay in any future transfer of a veterans' hospital.
- 9. As lay offs, the employees had the option of taking an immediate annuity, deferred annuity, a return of contributions or, under a reciprocal agreement between the provin-

- Number of Year licences 1968 7548 1969 7064 1970 6829 1971 6606 1972 6217 1973 5871 1974 incomplete
- 4. 1973-74, \$8.15 million.
- 5. 15,275. Related industries are not included due to reporting difficulties.
- 6. Statistics are not kept as this labour force is highly seasonal as well as being frequently part time.

CLOSURE OF HOUSING UNITS AT FORT CHURCHILL

Question No. 342-Mr. Orlikow:

- 1. (a) How many housing units (PMQ's) at Fort Churchill owned by the Department of Public Works and previously used to house Department of Public Works employees and/or other Departments, agencies or federally approved occupants have been closed down (b) for what reasons were they closed down (c) was the Government of Manitoba consulted before they were closed down (d) did the Government of Manitoba ask that these units be used to house the residents in the Churchill area, including native families resident in the Dene Village Reserve, administered by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?
- 2. Are the units closed down empty and, if so, for what reason have they not been turned over to the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to operate?
- 3. How many units have been turned over to the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation?
- Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): 1. (a) Thirty two housing units (PMQ's) at Fort Churchil'. owned by the Department of Public Works have been closed down. (b) The units were surplus to Canada's requirements. (c) No. (d) Approximately 18 months after the units had been closed down the government of Manitoba requested that the housing be made available to residents in the Churchill area but did not include families resident in the Dene village area. The units were subsequently offered to the province of Manitoba on the proviso that the province take ownership and pay all costs to rehabilitate them to acceptable safety standards. The province also had to agree to service and provide alternative heating arrangements for these units at such time as it became impractical, due to phase-down of federal operations at Fort Churchill, to maintain existing services to the units. This offer was rejected by the province of Manitoba.
- 2. The units were taken out of service over three years ago and are presently empty. See 1(d) above for further details.
- 3. Fourty four units have been leased to the province of Manitoba through the Churchill Liaison Committee to be utilized in conjunction with the Churchill development. The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation act as agents for the province of Manitoba with respect to this lease.