

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 709, 1,251, 1,436, 1,476, 1,477 (corrected), 1,503 and 1,588.

[Text]

U.S.S.R.—RADIO SIGNALS

Question No. 709—Mr. Howie:

1. Since January 1, 1977, were investigations conducted to determine whether or not radio signals from the U.S.S.R. have any effect on weather systems and, if so, were conclusions arrived at?

2. Did such signals interfere with radio signals by the Canadian Armed Forces or Marine Services?

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Fisheries and the Environment, National Defence and Transport as follows: No. See reply to question No. 1,251 answered this day.

RADIO INTERFERENCE WITH CANADIAN WEATHER

Question No. 1,251—Mr. Robinson:

Is the government prepared to examine the claim of Dr. Andrew Michtowski that a Russian radio team is affecting Canadian weather patterns?

Mr. Mike Landers (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Environment)): An examination of this claim by the atmospheric environment service revealed that there were no scientifically credible factual observations to substantiate such a claim. If such observations do exist, and are made available to the atmospheric environment service, a reappraisal will of course be undertaken.

PENSIONERS' OVERPAYMENT

Question No. 1,436—Mr. Forrestall:

1. For each year since 1970, how many overpayment cases have been due to the failure to reduce a pensioner's benefits received under the Public Service Superannuation Act and/or the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act, when a pensioner became entitled to disability benefits from the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan?

2. What was the total amount of overpayments for each year since 1970?

3. How much of the overpayments have been recovered to date?

4. How many pensioners have been able and willing to liquidate their total overpayment by means of a single cheque or money order?

5. How many pensioners have or are liquidating their overpayment by monthly deductions from their annuity cheques?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):

1. Not available in annual totals: the figures displayed below represent the cases at the dates specified: 1970-1974, not available; November, 1975, 626; March, 1976, 760; March, 1977, 1,110; December, 1977, 2,693.

[Mr. Speaker.]

2. Not available in annual totals: the figures displayed below represent the amounts outstanding at the dates specified:

	Public Service Superannuation Act	Supplementary Retirements Benefits Act	Combined
	\$	\$	\$
1970-1974	Not available		
November, 1975	73,360.68	4,112.51	75,473.19
March, 1976	65,276.67	3,153.73	68,430.40
March, 1977	49,002.84	2,592.50	51,595.34
December, 1977	1,404,068.74	207,332.28	1,611,401.02

3. Not available as requested. The department calculates the total number of pension overpayments recovered. However, this total is not broken down to show different totals for different types of situations related to overpayments like the one which originated this question.

4. Thirteen per cent of all overpayments are liquidated by cash remittance.

5. Eighty seven per cent of all overpayments are being liquidated by monthly deductions from public service pensions.

CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Question No. 1,476—Mr. Mitges:

1. (a) Who was in charge of the Canadian delegation to the Belgrade meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe held between October 7, 1977 and March 9, 1978 and what are his/her credentials (b) how many persons were part of the Canadian delegation on a (i) permanent (ii) part-time basis (c) how many persons from the Canadian delegation were recruited from (i) the Department of External Affairs (ii) other government departments or agencies?

2. What was the total cost to the government of maintaining the delegation in Belgrade for the duration of the conference?

3. On what occasions did ministers attend the conference and, in each case, who was the minister and what travelling and other expenses did he/she incur?

4. What directives, if any, were issued to the Canadian delegation by the Department of External Affairs in relation to the official visitations to the Belgrade conference by members of parliament and senators?

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. (a) The head of the Canadian delegation to the Belgrade meeting of the CSCE was Mr. W. T. Delworth, Canadian ambassador to Hungary. Mr. Delworth has been actively associated with CSCE questions since September, 1974 when he was appointed head of the Canadian delegation at the Geneva phase of the CSCE that drafted the final act which was eventually signed in Helsinki on August 1, 1975. (b) (i) Six officials assisted by six administrative support personnel; (ii) Twenty-one. (c) (i) Twelve—The Department of External Affairs. Two—Office of the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. One—The Department of National Defence. Eighteen parliamentary observers from the Senate and the House of Commons.

2. The total cost of maintaining the delegation in Belgrade, including those participating on a part-time basis, is not available yet because all invoices have not been received but it is estimated at \$260,000.