

to supply all the papers, documents and reports concerning the RCMP move from Victoria to Vancouver. This House order was passed on June 3. Last night I received my copy of it. It in no way complies with the House order.

I am sure you will realize how serious this question of privilege is, and I would ask you to extend to me the courtesy of additional time to prepare precedents and evidence to support my question of privilege.

Madam Speaker: I will look into the matter and take it under advisement.

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POINT OF ORDER

MISS NICHOLSON—APPORTIONMENT OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, I rise on a brief point of order. I listened with great interest to Your Honour's explanation of the way in which question period is managed to give equity to members. I noticed Your Honour mentioned a desirable number of questions for each of the opposition parties.

May I express my hope that when we are considering reform of the rules of the House we may have some discussion in the House, and perhaps at that time Your Honour might consider the advisability of increasing the number of questions available to supporters of the government. One could perhaps make a case that our constituents have an interest in seeing us raise matters of public policy in the House as well as in caucus.

Madam Speaker: I do not think that matter is the object of a rule. It is a decision which the Speaker makes on her own. I will agree with the hon. member that the government side has not been particularly spoiled with opportunities to ask questions because of the constraints I have which were described earlier. I have not given the government side the numbers which legitimately, I suppose, it could expect.

Hon. members from the government side realize that the government does have an excellent opportunity to express itself through the ministers who answer questions, a procedure which does take a lot of question period time. That is why backbenchers on the government side are not recognized as often as they would desire. That, too, is a matter of custom. Also the custom is that members on the government side do not get the privilege of a supplementary question.

I am in the hands of the House leaders, if they want to discuss this matter among themselves. I know how to establish the proportion that members on the opposition side should have in the Question Period, but I must say it is much more difficult to establish the proportion that should be given to the government side. I have looked at precedents and I have been guided by them. However, I am willing to discuss this question with the House leaders.

Order Paper Questions

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE '80s

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): I have the honour to present the Fourth Report of the Special Committee on Employment Opportunities for the '80s. If the House pleases, I intend to move concurrence later this day.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

CONCURRENCE IN FOURTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Madam Speaker, if the House consents, I move that the report to which I have just referred be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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● (1230)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,720, 2,106, 2,218, 2,244, 2,427 and 2,454.

[Text]

DIEFENBAKER STAMP—NUMBER PRINTED

Question No. 1,720—**Mr. Stewart:**

1. What is the average number printed, per issue, when a new stamp is issued?
2. How many stamps to commemorate the late Right. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker were printed and how many were allocated to the post offices in the (a) House of Commons (b) Senate?

Mr. Gary F. McCauley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):

1. For the period April 1, 1980, to September 30, 1980, the average number of stamps printed was as follows: for a 17-cent commemorative stamp 22,000,000, for a 35-cent commemorative stamp 12,000,000.

2. 24,850,000.

(a) and (b)

There is no allocation process for the post offices in the House of Commons and the Senate. These post offices determine the quantities they require and order accordingly.