

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

COST OF GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE SERVICE

Question No. 40—**Mr. Beatty:**

In 1982, what was the total amount the Government paid for long distance telephone calls not placed through Government operators or on government long distance lines?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): In so far as the Department of Communications is concerned, the reply to the above question is as follows:

Based on information reported by departments on their 1982 information technology and systems plans and to the Government of Canada banking and accounting branch of Supply and Services Canada, it is estimated that, during the 1982/83 fiscal year, \$33,500,000 was billed directly by the carriers to departments for long distance telephone calls not placed through government operators or on government long distance lines.

It is estimated that only 9.2 per cent of the calling represented by this \$33,500,000 could have been placed on the government intercity network. The remaining 90.8 per cent represents commercial (DDD) calling either from or to locations not served by the network. Examples of this would be calls to the United States and abroad or to Canadian locations where it is not economical to have government circuits.

ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

Question No. 379—**Mr. Howie:**

1. In the current fiscal year how many persons are employed in the office of the Economic Council of Canada and what is the total estimated cost of salaries?

2. For each of the two preceding fiscal years what amount was spent for salaries?

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1. As of January 17, 1984, there were 136 persons employed by the Economic Council of Canada for an estimated salary cost of \$5,159,000.

2. Amount spent for salaries:

1981-82—\$4,552,901

1982-83—\$4,791,923

RIGHTS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Question No. 400—**Mr. Howie:**

Did the Department of Justice create a special unit to identify and to define the rights of aboriginal people which are to be included in the Constitution of Canada and, if so (a) how many units were created (b) what was the total cost of each unit (c) what was the purpose of the structure (d) on what date will the unit or units complete its/their work?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): In so far as the Department of Justice is concerned: No. The Department of Justice did not create a special unit for this purpose. Rather, the work has been carried out through the Native Affairs Section, which has been in place since February, 1976, with intensive participation by the Deputy Minister, Associate Deputy Minister (Litigation), and the Public Law Section of the Department.

[English]

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

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all notices of motions for the production of papers stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PETROLEUM AND GAS REVENUE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacLaren that Bill C-14, an Act to amend an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to provide for revenue tax in respect of petroleum and gas, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to summarize the remarks I placed on the record yesterday concerning this proposed legislation. In our opinion it has some very offensive features. The Bill proposes to reduce the petroleum and gas revenue tax on oil companies. It will provide what appears, by and large, to be a unilateral reduction in that tax without conditions. The fact that the tax will be reduced without condition means that Canadian taxpayers will have to pick up an additional share of the costs of operation in this country. Reducing that tax on the oil companies will mean that there will be less revenue available for the disabled people. Many individuals on each side of the House indicated that there were many worthwhile projects for the disabled. The concern here is how you can reduce taxation of a group which, by and large, has done well throughout recent history and at the same time cut opportunities for disabled people. You just cannot do that. There are many pensioners and individuals along that line who will be affected. This unilateral, unconditional cut in the tax rate of oil companies is going to mean that there is even less revenue available for the