

Questions

who had tendered successfully on the harbour craft. The contract for the vessel in question was awarded on April 25, 1953.

3. No officers of this department signed the progress certificates. The progress certificates were signed by the responsible naval overseeing officers of the Department of National Defence.

4. \$99,102.55.

5. Yes, with work being stopped on January 13, 1956.

6. It is impossible to define precisely the over-all percentage of work which was completed at the time of cancellation. Materials had been ordered of which approximately 80 per cent were delivered. Construction of hull, decks and bulkheads had been completed. Outfitting had only commenced. Installation of engines and associated equipment had not commenced. An over-all estimate of completion of 50 per cent of total work appears reasonable.

7. The vessel was transferred for completion to H.M.C. Dockyard, Esquimalt, B.C.

R.C.M.P. FILES ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Question No. 66—Mr. Fisher:

1. Has the Royal Canadian Mounted Police any files, inoperative or otherwise, on members of the present House of Commons?

2. If so, how many, by provinces?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in this question the hon. member for Port Arthur asks whether the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have any files, inoperative or otherwise, on members of the present House of Commons, and if so how many, by provinces.

It will be appreciated by the house that all Royal Canadian Mounted Police files on individuals are confidential and that many are secret.

Mr. Sinclair: That does not bother the Prime Minister.

Mr. Fulton: It will also be appreciated that one of the primary duties of all those responsible for such files is to respect and preserve the confidential or secret nature of their contents. It will also be appreciated that a large number of such files are started by reports, statements or knowledge of activities coming to the attention of responsible members of the police which they are bound to investigate in the course of their duties. The follow-up on such reports in many cases reveals no necessity for further action, yet there is still a file. This means that many files will be in existence under the names of individuals against whom there is nothing of a substantial, let alone a criminal, nature.

I am quite certain that all hon. members, including the hon. member who asked this

[Mr. Green.]

question will agree that it would be grossly unfair to any such individual to have it revealed or even suspected that there exists a police file under his name, yet there may be many ways in which such a suspicion could be raised. It is my opinion, which is shared by my advisers in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that one of the surest ways of laying the foundation for the raising of suspicion would be to isolate a group of individuals, such as members of parliament, start answering questions as to whether there are any files on any of them and then refuse—as I would have to refuse—to go any further when questioned as to the existence or non-existence of a file on a specific member or members of such group. But this is exactly the door which is opened—quite unintentionally, I am sure—by this question.

Not only would this lead to the possibility of prejudice to an innocent individual, but if there were in fact with respect to any one or more members of such group a file or files which contained information serious enough to warrant further investigation the success of the investigation, and possibly the security of the state, might be seriously prejudiced by giving any information whatsoever.

It therefore follows that both in order to protect innocent individuals on whom there may be files and to preserve the interests of the state I have to advise the hon. gentleman that I consider it contrary to the public interest to give a specific answer to this question.

U.K. IMPORTS ASSEMBLED IN U.S.

Question No. 69—Mr. Cardin:

What is the estimated value for each of the years 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957, of products manufactured in the United Kingdom, which because they are assembled or finished in the United States or distributed by an agency in the United States are included in Canadian imports from the United States?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, no records such as are asked for by the hon. member are kept, and the information is not easily obtainable as it involves tracing the country of origin of components in manufactured articles coming from the United States.

COLD LAKE INDIAN RESERVE—COMPENSATION PAID

Question No. 70—Mr. Dechene:

1. Did the departments of national defence and citizenship and immigration agree upon a final settlement of the compensations and benefits to be paid to the band of the Cold Lake Indian reserve No. 149, in connection with the establishment of a bomber range for the Royal Canadian Air Force, north of Cold Lake, Alberta?

2. If so, what was the amount agreed upon?