

*Order Paper Questions*

2. What was the lease arrangement at the (a) Halifax Insurance Building (b) Quinpool Road Shopping Centre and, in each case, what amount was paid for what amount of space?

3. Who negotiated the lease arrangement at the Quinpool Road Shopping Centre?

4. Were offers or proposals to provide equal office space requested and, if so, what was the response?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** 1. No. The immigration office in Halifax is accommodated on the Terminal Road and the commission/department is not planning to move this office. The office that is accommodated in the Halifax Insurance Building on Spring Garden Road is a Canada Employment Centre.

2. (a) The lease for the office of 187.8 square metres at an annual rental of \$23,285 in the Halifax Insurance Building is due to expire on November 30, 1985. The Immigration Office on the Terminal Road occupies 222.4 square metres of a total commission/department rental of 985 square metres at a total annual rental of \$145,484.50. This lease is due to expire in November, 1985, and there is a two-year option on its renewal.

(b) Not applicable.

3. Not applicable.

4. Not applicable.

## ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS

Question No. 3,713—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is there a government policy to answer Order Paper questions as often as possible without giving specific information?

2. Did the government adopt a policy of answering Order Paper questions with answers containing no information and, if so, what are all the reasons justifying such a policy?

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** 1. and 2. The government answers questions in accordance with the relevant sections of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, editions 1 through 5.

## CHANGE IN PARLIAMENTARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

Question No. 3,714—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Is the government giving consideration to recommending a change in parliamentary rules and procedures that would bring about abolition of the rights of members to place questions on the Order Paper and, if so, are the grounds for such policy based on (a) its opinion that it is seldom "in the national interest" to answer questions (b) "it has not been customary to answer questions of a certain nature" (c) the government attempting to limit the rights of members of Parliament to ask questions and particularly their right to have access to information as elected representatives?

**Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** (a), (b) and (c) No.

[English]

**Madam Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered.

## QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, if question No. 3,522 could be made on order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

**Madam Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 3,522 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Text]

## PRIVATE FIRMS OR PERSONS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Question No. 3,522—**Mr. Beatty:**

Which private firms or persons received government contracts to work on Telidon and, in each case, what was the value of the contract?

Return tabled.

[English]

**Mr. Smith:** I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

NATIONAL HOUSING ACT  
CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION  
ACT

## MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works)** moved that Bill C-89, to amend the National Housing Act and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

He said: Madam Speaker, the bill before the House for second reading is a response to the serious difficulty which many Canadians are now facing in finding and maintaining good housing at affordable cost. The bill responds to these problems in two ways. In the first instance it provides the necessary legislative authority to put into effect the Canada mortgage renewal plan. Second, it enables the government to act more effectively in stimulating production of rental housing, and makes possible new kinds of assistance for young families who are buying for the first time.