

## Order Paper Questions

4. What was the cash value of all companies held by Crown corporations (a) on date of purchase (b) as of October 1, 1974?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** 1. As of December 31, 1973: Polysar Limited, 100 per cent; Texasguld Inc., 30.4 per cent; Connlab Holdings Limited, 100 per cent; Venturetek International Limited, 35 per cent; Ventures West Capital Ltd., 49 per cent; Innocan Investments Ltd., 40 per cent; Gas Arctic—Northwest Project Study Group, 3.7 per cent.

2. The CDC formed Connlab Holdings Limited in June 1973 with initial resources of \$35 million. At December 31, 1973, the last fiscal year-end, Connlab's assets amounted to \$69.5 million. Connlab registered a profit of \$41,000 in 1973.

3. None.

4. (a) Not available. Some companies held by Crown corporations were established by them and thus on the date of incorporation had no cash value (e.g. Air Canada's subsidiary Airtransit Canada Ltd., a number of subsidiaries of CN such as Canac Consultants Limited). Other companies held by Crown corporations were acquired as the result of their business failure where the government had guaranteed all or part of their debts (e.g. Canadian National Railways holds in trust the government's investment in the Canadian government railways, such as the Inter Colonial). It is not feasible at this time to make an appraisal of the value of an asset acquired, in some instances, (b) Not available. Since a cash value is the amount a willing purchaser would pay a willing seller, it can only be obtained by either calling for tenders if the company is to be sold or by having an appraisal estimate made by a qualified appraiser.

## CIRCULATION AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF "READER'S DIGEST"

## Question No. 393—Mr. Herbert:

1. Is the government aware that the annual circulation of *Sélection du Reader's Digest* is up to three million?

2. Does the government have any concern about the cultural influence of the magazine and has it met with representatives of the Government of the Province of Quebec to discuss this matter?

3. Are there other magazines of such circulation in the Province of Quebec?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** 1. According to a statement of the Audit Bureau of Circulation which appeared in the November 1974 issue of Canadian Advertising Rates & Data, the average monthly circulation of *Sélection du Reader's Digest* for the second half of 1973 was 268,772 copies. This would indicate that its annual circulation is up to 3 million.

2. (a) Yes, the government is concerned about the cultural influence of this magazine. (b) No, it has not met with representatives of the government of the province of Quebec to discuss this matter.

3. Yes there are other magazines of such circulation in the province of Québec: namely *Châtelaine* (French language edition) at 248,612, and *Famille d'aujourd'hui* at 220,350. These figures were taken from the same source as cited in reply to Part 1.

[Mr. Rynard.]

## OLYMPIC COINS

## Question No. 407—Mr. Lachance:

Do any banks, acting under orders from the Bank of Canada, refuse to honour the Olympic Coins having a legal tender below \$20 and, if so, does the government intend to correct this situation which could create anxiety among the numismatists of the world and among Canadian taxpayers in general?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** The Bank of Canada has not issued any orders to banks to refuse to accept Olympic coins.

## UIC—TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS

## Question No. 435—Mr. Ellis:

What were the travel expenses for the Regional Director (Director General) (a) Quebec (b) Ontario of the Unemployment Insurance Commission for 1972 and 1973?

**Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** 1972: Ontario, \$5,775; Quebec, \$1,983; 1973: Ontario, \$4,966; Quebec, \$2,106.

## UIC—REMOVAL OF STAFF FROM BELLEVILLE, 1973-74

## Question No. 436—Mr. Ellis:

What staff were removed by the Unemployment Insurance Commission from Belleville in 1973 and 1974 to date?

**Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):**

	1973	1974 (to October 30)
Removal out of Belleville (including promotions)	36	14
Removal into Belleville (including promotions)	27	18
Released on Probation	0	0
Released for Incapacity of Incompetence	0	0
Termination of term (casual employment)	105	40

## INCOME TAX DEDUCTION COVERING WAGES PAID TO A FARMER'S SPOUSE

## Question No. 512—Mr. Hnatyshyn:

Is the government giving consideration to allowing a farmer to deduct, for income tax purposes, wages or salaries paid to the farmer's spouse for work done in connection with the farming operation?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** The government in the past had considered permitting an unincorporated farmer as well as a small commercial businessman to deduct wages paid to his spouse for demonstrably useful labour, and to allow the wife to report this income. While such a deduction is fair in principle, it was determined that the establishment of the validity of the claim would give rise to administrative difficulties. An unwarranted splitting of income would be unfair and would give rise to tax avoidance. It is to be noted that a farm which is incorporated can pay a salary to any employee including the wife of the owner. It should be realized of course that