

Questions

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

POLLUTION—USE OF AEROBES IN CLEANING UP OIL POLLUTED WATERS

Question No. 1,097—**Mr. Yewchuk:**

1. Has the government any information on the use of aerobes in cleaning up water polluted by oil refinery operations in the Baytown, Texas area and, if so, will the government consider their use in Canadian oil-polluted waters?

2. Is the information available as to the cost of using such micro-organisms in comparison with pollution control installations used to purify water polluted with oil and, if so, what is the cost?

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): 1. The Government has no specific details of installations at the Baytown, Texas refineries, but we are aware of numerous current applications of the principle in various parts of the world including Canada.

2. Yes. Under reasonable conditions costs can range from four-eight cents per 1,000 gallons of waste treated but when relative capital costs are high, or conditions adverse, costs could exceed these figures.

ESTIMATED DEBT FOR AVERAGE CANADIAN FAMILY

Question No. 1,223—**Mr. Mather:**

What is the estimated debt for the average Canadian family including the nine billion, eighty-seven million dollars of debt for Canadian families reported by DBS in November, 1970, plus the approximate debts owed to oil companies, credit unions, retail stores reporting quarterly and doctor and dentist bills?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Statistics Canada (Dominion Bureau of Statistics) reports that: At the present time DBS has no statistics on the debt of the average Canadian family. However, DBS recently carried out a survey on family income, indebtedness and asset holdings. The results will not be available until the latter part of this year. These surveys are only conducted occasionally, and the last one was taken in 1964. In December 1970, total consumer credit outstanding was \$11,406 million. This includes amounts owed on all charge accounts, oil company credit cards, and instalment debt. It does not include debt to doctors and dentists. These statistics are obtained from lending institutions and not households.

LABOUR DISPUTES—JASPER LODGE AND CHATEAU LAURIER

Question No. 1,313—**Mr. Fortin:**

What stage has been reached in the "Jasper Lodge" and "Château Laurier" labour disputes with respect to minimum salaries?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Canadian National Railways has appealed to the Alberta Supreme

[Mr. Gauthier.]

Court the July 7, 1970 decision of the Canada Labour Relations Board to certify the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers as bargaining agent for its employees at Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta, on the grounds that this operation is not within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada. This case is still before the Court and judgment has not yet been delivered. The decision of the Court should resolve current differences of opinion concerning the application to certain hotels of federal labour laws, including the Canada Labour (Standards) Code.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS AT MONTEBELLO, QUEBEC

Question No. 1,330—**Mr. Schumacher:**

During the month of April 1971, did senior officials of the Department of Public Works hold meetings at the Seignory Club in Montebello, Quebec, to discuss reorganization of the Department and, if so (a) what was the expense involved (i) as to accommodation for meetings and participants (ii) transportation (iii) meals and *per diem* expenses (b) for what reasons were government facilities in Ottawa not used (c) what was the duration of such meetings (d) what conclusions were reached?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Yes, (a) (i) and (iii) \$4,638.27. Accommodation and meals not treated separately as expenses were based on American (meals inclusive) plan. (ii) \$2,221.48. (b) It was essential that the agenda of the Conference be the singular concern of the participants. It was thus decided to hold the Conference in an environment which would minimize the potential conflict between the normal operating responsibilities of the participants and the conference objectives. (c) From the evening of April 19 to the evening of April 21, 1971. (d) It was not the objective of the meetings to reach conclusions but to permit a full exchange of views among management personnel to ensure that the conclusions finally reached by management are based on sound consideration of all the factors involved.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—SEMINAR HELD IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, 1971

Question No. 1,331—**Mr. Schumacher:**

1. Is there a designation of "Zone Manager" within the Department of Public Works and, if so, what is the function or duties performed by a person so designated?

2. Did any Zone Managers, other officials or employees of the Department attend a seminar in Miami Beach, Florida during the month of April 1971 and, if so (a) what was the purpose of the seminar (b) what expense was involved (i) as to accommodation for meetings and participants (ii) transportation (iii) meals and *per diem* expenses (c) what was the duration of the seminar (d) how many employees of the Department attended the seminar and, in each case, what position do they hold within the Department?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): 1. Yes. A Zone Manager, under the general direction of an Area