

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Wednesday, October 16, 1968

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### THE BUDGET

#### TABLING OF BUDGETARY PAPERS

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies in English and in French of the usual budgetary papers. I would ask the consent of the house to have the papers printed as an appendix to today's *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For text of papers referred to, see appendix A.*]

### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### FRENCH VERSION OF B.N.A. ACT

Question No. 13—**Mr. Caouette:**

Is the government taking any measures to provide an official French version of the British North America Act and, if so, when will such version be available?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** While there is in use in Canada a generally recognized and accepted official translation of the British North America Act passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom in 1867, an official French version of the original Act of 1867 could, under the present constitution of Canada, only be provided by formal legislative action on the part of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. This would apply equally to the various amendments to the Act from 1867 to the present, except, of course, those amendments that by virtue of head 1 of section 91 or head 1 of section 92 may be enacted by the Parliament of Canada or by the legislatures of the provinces without recourse to the United Kingdom Parliament.

29180—76½

Thus the amendment to the British North America Act that was enacted by the Parliament of Canada in 1965 relating to the retirement age of senators was enacted in both official language versions, English and French.

More recently, where an agreement requiring legislative implementation has been entered into between the Government of Canada on the one hand and the Government of the United Kingdom on the other hand, the agreement has been executed in both languages, both texts being stated to be equally authentic, and has been sanctioned accordingly in that form not only by our own Parliament but also by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. See for example the Canada-United Kingdom Income Tax Agreement approved by chapter 14 of the Statutes of 1966-67. The intention of the Government of Canada is to continue this practice, and to seek to extend it to whatever future legislation the Parliament of the United Kingdom may be requested to enact relating to Canada and its constitution.

[*English*]

#### CHANGES IN STAMP DESIGN

Question No. 28—**Mr. Harkness:**

1. How many changes in the design of the five-cent Canadian postal stamp have been made during the past year?

2. What is the average cost for designing, printing, etc., when making a change in the stamp?

3. What is the estimated extra return to the Post Office, if any, as the result of making a stamp change?

**Hon. Eric Kierans (Postmaster General):** 1. Ten, including the current 5 cents definitive stamp and the 5 cents Christmas stamp.

2. The current 5 cents definitive stamp was designed in conjunction with the 1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents, and the 4 cents series at a total cost of \$3,400. The cost of printing the 5 cents definitive stamp will depend on the duration of the period during which it will be in use. The 5 cents Christmas stamp was