

government will guarantee to cover the annual deficits on the bridge through advances, subject to approval by parliament.

It is therefore our intention to seek from parliament at any early date the necessary authority for this guarantee.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Was there a suggestion, Mr Speaker, that the press release be directed to *Hansard* for inclusion in the record of today's proceedings? I do not think press releases should be so incorporated. It is a bad precedent.

**Mr. Speaker:** It was my understanding that the hon. gentleman asked leave to table it.

**Mr. Sharp:** I sought approval to table the press release; I did not mean to have it incorporated in the record.

### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### PRINTING BUREAU INVENTORIES

Question No. 65—**Mr. Irvine:**

1. Does the Canadian Government Printing bureau make any annual inventory of supplies, machinery, parts, other equipment and stocks?

2. Who conducts any such inventories and to whom are the findings reported?

3. In the past five calendar or fiscal years, what has been the result of such stock and equipment inventories?

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Paper	\$ 2,285+	\$ 269+	\$ 4,809+	\$ 5,929+	\$4,488.10+
Printing supplies	2,813+	5,544+	2,255+	9,689+	495.32+
Maintenance parts	—	1,130—	1,744+	382+	616.30+
Stationery supplies	2,320—	5,528+	11,002+	811+	2,325.16—
Office machine parts	3,128+	637+	379+	3,020+	1,546.00—
New equipment (O.M.S.)	—	15—	703+	8+	nil
Plant equipment	nil	nil	nil	nil	63—
Total	5,906+	10,833+	20,892+	19,839+	1,665.56+

The above unfavourable variances are in the nature of a normal stores operation. For example, the most significant variation stationery supplies 1961, \$2,320, is less than 1/10 of 1 per cent of the value of stationery issues. Audit reports covering the unfavourable variances do not record marked discrepancies on individual stores items. Such variances may arise in the counting or measuring of small parts or in the rounding of unit rates.

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### Questions

4. What has been the nature and the dollar value of any "short falls", in (a) paper and other stocks (b) equipment (c) tools?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):**

1. Yes, up to the end of 1963-64 fiscal year, the Canadian government printing bureau was making annual inventories on the following items: Paper, Printing supplies, Maintenance parts, Stationery supplies, Office machine parts, New equipment (office machine section), Plant equipment (also in 1964-65).

In 1964-65 the Canadian government supply service had the responsibility for the following inventories: Paper, Printing supplies, Maintenance parts, Stationery supplies, Office machine parts, New equipment (office machine section).

2. The CGPB inventories are conducted by officers in charge of plants and divisions and internal auditors. The findings are reported to the Comptroller, Financial Services. The procedure is reviewed by the Auditor General's representative.

The CGSS stocktaking is conducted by the stores supervisor or district supervisors and internal auditors. The findings are reported to the Comptroller, Department of Defence Production. The operation is carried out under the surveillance of the resident Auditor General's representative.

3 and 4. Variances between physical and book value on inventories are:

#### DR. SYLVESTER DRABIT

Question No. 80—**Mr. Howe (Hamilton South):**

1. Was Dr. Sylvester Drabit ever employed by the Department of National Health and Welfare?

2. Is Dr. Drabit now in the employ of the Department of National Health and Welfare and, if not, what was the reason for his departure?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. Yes.

2. Yes.