

Questions

employees in Ottawa on December 14, 1970 and, if so, on whose direct authority was this done?

2. Were tape recorders used without the knowledge of Air Canada employees being checked and, if so, were such tape recorders in plain view at all times of those being investigated?

3. What disciplinary action has been taken against those involved?

4. Have steps been taken to see that there is no recurrence of this either in Air Canada or in any other level of government?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): The Language Commissioner reports directly to Parliament and not through a minister. Questions can be made directly to him privately.

REMOVAL OF PAGES FROM "FOREIGN TRADE" SUPPLEMENT

Question No. 838—**Mr. Crouse:**

1. With respect to the answer given to Question Number 512 at page 2806 in *Hansard*, January 27, 1971, regarding the removal of pages one and two from "Foreign Trade", what was the content of the two pages?

2. What were the statements that might have been misleading?

3. Will the government table the two pages in question?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): 1. These pages contained (1) the text of the joint communiqué issued by the Government of Canada and the People's Republic of China recording agreement on mutual recognition of the establishment of diplomatic relations and (2) a resume outlining the purpose of the special issue.

2. Release of the joint communiqué was simultaneous in Ottawa and Peking and page 1 of "Foreign Trade" indicated the release date as being October 13, 1970. The release date in Peking was October 14 because of the time differential due to the international dateline. Also "Foreign Trade" reported that Canada and China released the communiqué in Stockholm where the negotiations had taken place whereas, in fact, separate announcements had been made in their own capitals.

3. Yes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Question No. 857—**Mr. Robinson:**

1. What variables are considered in calculating the Consumer Price Index?

2. Is any regional allowance made in reaching the calculations?

3. Is the index considered valid for all of Canada and, if not, for what reason?

4. Are only certain urban centres considered and is any consideration being given to including additional centres?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that: 1. The Consumer Price Index for Canada is designed to measure the effect of changes in consumer prices on the cost of purchasing an unchanging or equivalent basket of consumer goods and services. The only variable which is considered to cause movement in the index is price change. The basket of consumer goods and services in the index is designed to reflect the spending pattern of a broad middle-income group of urban families of two to six persons.

[Mr. MacRae.]

2. In the Consumer Price Index for Canada the prices used are collected in 33 cities across Canada. Also, the index basket itself is a composite of spending patterns in Canada for urban middle-income families. Thus, regional movements of prices are incorporated in the Canada index in proportion to their importance in the basket.

3. The Canada index is an average or composite for the population group specified in 1. above. It is considered valid for that group as a whole and because of the homogeneity of spending patterns within the group, the index is considered reasonably valid for any significant components of it.

4. As indicated in 2. above, prices from 33 cities are now included in the Canada index. Periodic reviews are carried out to up-date the basket and price samples for the index and such a review is underway currently. Separate Consumer Price Indexes for 10 regional cities in Canada are prepared, but these indexes measure percentage change in consumer prices from one period to the next within each city and cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.

CBC—COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER'S ASIAN TOUR AND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

Question No. 875—**Mr. Marshall:**

1. How many personnel were sent by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to cover the Prime Minister's Asian tour?

2. How many CBC personnel covered the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference?

3. What was the total cost of the coverage of the Prime Minister's tour and at the Commonwealth Conference to CBC and, what was the total amount of coverage provided on the French and English networks, radio and television?

4. How many personnel from CTV were included in the Prime Minister's press group on the Asian tour and at the Commonwealth Conference?

5. What was the total amount of programming provided by CTV network on the tour and at Conference?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Prime Minister's and Privy Council Offices as follows: 1. and 2. A total of five for English language radio and television services; seven for French language radio and television services, two of whom were sent from Hong Kong. The same teams covered the Commonwealth Conference, the English language group being augmented for coverage of this event by two additional personnel, one of whom was sent from Hong Kong.

3. Combined English and French language radio and television coverage totalled approximately eight hours. It has not been customary to require the CBC to disclose individual program costs. However in the case of the above events, numerous reports and commentaries of varying duration were aired over a three-week period on several programs on the English and French CBC networks and the shortwave International Services. A reasonable estimate of the over-all cost would be in the range of \$45,000.

4. Two.