

member of the government, to make a statement on motions, to which representatives of the parties in opposition can respond. The purpose of Standing Order 41(2) is to table a document or paper relating to the administrative responsibilities of the government or of a particular department. The third alternative is for ministers to make statements outside the House, which our Standing Orders do not preclude and which has been the practice on many occasions in past decades and more.

What is being suggested now is that when a document is sought to be tabled by a minister the Speaker should suspend the work of the House and look at a document which may be five or ten pages long and determine whether it is the kind of document that could be tabled under the terms of Standing Order 41(2). The previous document tabled by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration was even longer than this one. I am sure it is not the wish of the House that we suspend the sitting every two minutes for half an hour so the Speaker can study a document to determine whether it is a document that is acceptable under Standing Order 41(2). I would really think that the responsibility should be that of the minister who tables the document—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: —to determine whether he is complying with the spirit of the rule. This is what all hon. members would expect, and certainly it is what the Chair would expect.

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FOOD PRICES

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East) moved:

That the Second Report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, presented to the House on Wednesday, July 15, 1973, be concurred in.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions, informal and formal, with regard to suspending this motion until the normal question period has been completed. I think that is acceptable to all parties. I have talked to members on the government side and to the other parties. I think the government, as a

Order Paper Questions

result of its deliberations over the weekend, might be able to answer a number of questions today, after which we could probably proceed with the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: This order of business will be called immediately on the calling of orders of the day.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

[Text]

***COST OF HOUSEHOLD MAILER "POSTAL NEWS OTTAWA"**

Question No. 2,251—Mr. Reynolds:

1. What was the cost of the household mailer called "Postal News Ottawa"?
2. Was this same household mailer used in other areas of Canada and, if so, what numbers were mailed out and at what cost?
3. Was there any money spent advertising this same program (a) in magazines (b) in newspapers (c) on radio (d) on television and, if so, how much?
4. What is the cost to the government for new mail boxes and for painting old ones for this program?
5. What studies were carried out to prove this system?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the answer to part 1 is \$3,437.86; part 2, 4,235,000 cost—\$87,144.71; part 3, (a) nil, (b) nil, (c) nil, (d) \$179,000; part 4, \$342,000 for the 60 cities under the assured mail program; part 5, In depth studies were carried out by departmental officials, over a period of two years, especially by marketing and operations.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES EXCLUDING SALARIES

Question No. 2,352—Mr. Bowden:

How much did the Department of Public Works spend, by province, in each of the past five years (excluding salary expenditures) and for each of the first six months in 1973?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Following is a schedule showing the expenditures by province in each of the past five fiscal years and for the first three months of the 1973-74 fiscal year (excluding salary expenditures).

Department of Public Works
Summary of Expenditures other than Salaries (\$000)

Fiscal Year	Newfoundland	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	North-west Territories	Out-side Canada	Total
1968-69	16,112	14,867	8,711	5,322	39,562	103,025	9,779	2,967	5,379	13,036	6,044	1,984	885	227,673
1969-70	12,082	16,057	5,742	2,062	37,536	105,474	7,358	4,204	10,688	17,344	6,885	1,778	695	227,905
1970-71	16,949	8,040	8,818	1,196	66,156	123,651	8,450	4,386	5,624	18,224	6,874	1,866	661	270,895
1971-72	5,469	7,912	5,282	1,009	57,311	145,264	10,762	3,118	7,162	16,647	6,145	3,260	953	270,294
1972-73 1st. Qtr.	4,664	7,940	8,314	1,199	54,521	162,369	9,856	3,205	8,049	22,333	9,844	4,246	2,410	298,950
1973-74	427	1,326	849	101	10,789	26,086	1,366	766	2,961	3,887	1,963	666	362	51,549