

### Questions

4. Regulations governing the wages paid to all commissionaires, including those at Calgary, are set down in T.B. 649495 of December 30, 1965.

#### HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETINGS, WESTERN QUEBEC

##### Question No. 274—Mr. Clermont:

Has the federal government task force on housing and rural development scheduled public meetings in the region of Western Quebec?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** The federal government task force on housing and urban development plans to hold public hearings in Hull, Quebec some time in late November, the exact time and place yet to be determined.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF C.B.C. MONTREAL BUILDING

##### Question No. 281—Mr. Dinsdale:

1. What was the date for the closing of tenders for Place Radio in Montreal announced by the Secretary of State?

2. Has there been a delay in opening these tenders and, if so (a) what is the new deadline, and (b) what is the reason for this delay?

3. When will construction get underway on this project, and (a) what is the target date for completion (b) what is the estimated total cost of the project?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the C.B.C. as follows: 1. The date for closing of tenders, as originally established by the corporation, was August 30, 1968.

2. Yes. The closing date of August 30 was changed to October 1 at the request of the contractors who explained that additional time was required to complete their bids because of the complexity of the project.

3. It is expected that construction will begin this December, subject to order in council approval. The target date for completion and occupancy remains unchanged, i.e., 1972. Estimated total cost of the project is \$66,200,000.

#### LANDING STRIPS, ABITIBI CONSTITUENCY

##### Question No. 285—Mr. Laprise:

1. How many landing strips are in use in the constituency of Abitibi and where are they located?

2. How many landing strips are under construction and at what locations?

[Mr. Hellyer.]

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** 1. There are 10 landing strips available for use in the constituency of Abitibi. Their locations are, Amos (private); Asbestos Hill; Cape Jones; Deception Bay; Esker; Fort George; Inoucdjouac; La Sarre; Poste-De-La-Baleine; Povungnituk.

2. Three landing strips are known to be under construction at Amos (municipal), Nitchequon and Raglan.

#### PAYMENTS TO PROVINCES UNDER MEDICARE

##### Question No. 288—Mr. Harding:

1. What is the estimated total cost to the federal government of payments to the provinces under the federal Medicare Plan for the present fiscal year?

2. What provinces, to date, have come under the federal Medicare Plan, and what is the estimated payment to each for the present fiscal year?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. The revised estimated payments by the federal government to the provinces under the federal Medical Care Act in the fiscal year 1968-69 will be \$32,966,100. This figure will be further adjusted at the close of the present fiscal year.

2. The provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia have participated in the medical care program since July 1, 1968. The estimated payments to these two provinces in the present fiscal year are: Saskatchewan, \$11,296,800; British Columbia, \$21,669,300.

#### GRINDING OF OBSERVATORY MIRROR BLANK

##### Question No. 293—Mr. Anderson:

1. Has the government abandoned its plan to sell the 158 inch mirror blank originally purchased for the Queen Elizabeth II Observatory?

2. What steps have been taken to find alternate employment within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources or at a Canadian University for the highly skilled team of opticians assembled to grind and polish the Queen Elizabeth II Observatory mirror blank?

3. Are these men still employed by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources?

4. On what date will their employment terminate?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** 1. The eventual use of the 157 inch mirror blank is still under consideration.

2. None.

3. Yes.

4. There has been no decision taken to release the optical employees referred to above.