

national security to reveal at this time the number of applications made for warrants.

#### REGIONAL MARINE CENTRE

##### Question No. 96—**Mr. Dingwall:**

Will the Minister of Transport provide moneys to set up a Regional Marine Center that will accommodate the Canadian Coast Guard offices in Louisbourg.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** No. (a) Not applicable. (b) There are no Coast Guard offices in Louisbourg. Existing accommodations for the Louisbourg lifeboat station are adequate.

#### CRTC HEARINGS ON CN-CP APPLICATION

##### Question No. 102—**Mr. Orlikow:**

Did the CRTC hold formal hearings from September 4 to November 16, 1984 into the application of CN-CP Telecommunications to provide interchange competition and, if so, how many (a) items of correspondence were received from individuals and groups by the office of the Minister of Communications concerning telephone system deregulation and telephone rate structure rebalancing (b) petitions were received by the office of the Minister concerning telephone system deregulation and telephone rate structure rebalancing and how many individuals had signed the petitions?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) held public hearings from September 4 to November 16, 1984 on an application by CNCP Telecommunications to provide long distance telephone service.

As of December 10, 1984: (a) 10,899 items of correspondence concerning deregulation and rate rebalancing of telephone service have been received from individuals and groups by the office of the Minister of Communications; (b) 51 petitions signed by 5,592 individuals have been received.

#### STUDIES OF VALUE ADDED TAX

##### Question No. 107—**Mr. de Jong:**

1. Did the Department of Finance undertake or did it have undertaken for it any studies as to the matter of the implementation and administration of a value added tax in Canada and, if so (a) did such studies examine the federal jurisdiction only or did it also examine the tax with respect to its application on a federal-provincial scale (b) how many were completed and, in each case, on what date?

2. Are any studies presently under way and, if so (a) how many (b) who are the participants (c) what is the estimated cost, in each case?

3. Have any studies been completed and, if so, will they be tabled or released to the public in some other manner?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Ways to improve the efficiency of Canada's tax system are always under review by the Department of Finance. In particular, Canada's commodity tax system has been under intensive review for some years. Several alternatives to the present manufacturers' sales tax have been identified and value added taxation is one of them. While no detailed studies of a value added tax have been prepared by the Department of Finance, the report of the Federal Sales Tax Review Committee sub-

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mitted to the Government in May, 1983 has a discussion of this option.

The Department of Finance has commenced a review of value added tax (VAT) following the Federal Sales Tax Review Committee report. First hand information about the operation of existing value added systems in the European Economic Community was obtained during a recent visit to Europe by officials from Finance and Revenue Canada. Information gathered by this group forms the basis for work now in progress in the Department to evaluate this option.

This activity should not be interpreted as endorsement by the federal Government of the value added tax alternative. No decision has been made to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, let alone the nature of a possible replacement.

No external studies of federal-provincial aspects of value added taxation are in progress, though federal-provincial aspects are central to the feasibility of such an option in Canada and are under consideration in the Department of Finance.

One external study on the operation of VAT has recently been commissioned by the Department. This examines the relatively difficult areas of housing and financial sectors under a VAT framework. This study will cost \$21,500.

No studies have yet been completed in the Department. When any studies are completed, the Government will examine the feasibility of making them available to the public.

#### DPW CONTRACTS IN CONSTITUENCY OF MANICOUAGAN

##### Question No. 112—**Mr. Boudria:**

Since the September 4 election, how many Department of Public Works contracts have been awarded or filled by suppliers or contractors, originating in part or in whole, from the Constituency of Manicouagan and, in each case, what was the total value of the contracts?

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works):** Since the September 4 election four public works contracts have been awarded. The total value of each of the four contracts is as follows: \$6,720, \$23,302, \$11,799, \$58,670.

#### CABINET MINISTERS' CHIEFS OF STAFF

##### Question No. 125—**Mr. Robichaud:**

1. Were courses given to chiefs of staff of cabinet ministers' and, if so (a) at what cost (b) how long did they last?

2. Were tenders called before the contract was awarded to the Biolink Management firm and, if so (a) how many tenders were examined (b) what were the names of individuals or firms who submitted a tender (c) what were the amounts of the tenders?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** 1. Chiefs of Staff were able to subscribe to a course (a) costing \$986.80 per participant; and (b) over a period of one evening and two full days.

2. No contract was awarded by the Government of Canada to the Biolink Management firm.