

ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCIAL ART CENTRES

Question No. 1,667—**Mr. Gauthier:**

1. Has the federal government spent any money in the past ten years to help centres for the arts in the following provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and, if so, how much in each province?

2. Did the federal government provide funds for the Place des Arts in Montreal and, if so, how much?

Return tabled.

COST SHARING PROGRAMS

Question No. 1,669—**Mr. Davis:**

1. How many federal-provincial cost sharing programs are now in effect?

2. What are they?

3. When were they first instituted?

4. What is the cost sharing formula (i.e., the relative federal and provincial contributions in percentage terms) used in each of these programs?

5. What was the federal contribution, in total, and by program, for the fiscal year 1963-64?

6. What was the federal contribution, in total and by program, in each province for the fiscal year 1963-64?

Return tabled.

REQUEST FOR OLD AGE PENSION INCREASE

Question No. 1,721—**Mr. Howe (Hamilton South):**

Has the government received representations from the senior women's committee for pension increase, requesting an increase in the old age pension to \$100 a month and, if so, what has been their reply?

Return tabled.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

STEPS TO DEAL WITH RISING PRICES
AND INCREASING COSTS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ascertain from him whether, in view of the frightening acceleration of inflation and the veiled undertaking given by the Minister of Finance last spring that if the then budget did not work out further action would be taken, he would say now that, at the conclusion of the matters that are before us the government intends to bring before the house a supplementary budget that will be effective as contrasted with one that has produced nothing but heartaches?

23033—491½

*Inquiries of the Ministry***Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):**

Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that when the present legislation has been disposed of the government would be very glad to facilitate an arrangement whereby there can be a discussion of this very important and worrying matter. At that time the Minister of Finance, or perhaps the Prime Minister, will be able to indicate the government's approach to this problem. I cannot go any farther at this moment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the determining of prices, wages and the like is a matter within the jurisdiction of the provinces and in view of the fact that co-operative action could be taken between the federal and provincial governments, would the Prime Minister say whether the government will, in view of the very serious inflationary situation which prevails, call together the provinces with a view to ascertaining whether an agreement can be arrived at for co-operative legislation, if I may use that term, on the part of the federal government and the various provincial legislatures.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on September 14 there is to be a meeting between the federal and provincial ministers of finance. This very important matter is on the agenda and will be discussed with the provincial ministers of finance at that time.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has given any further thought to the proposal we advanced last year that the government should set up a prices review board to review price increases with a view to seeing whether or not they are warranted. At that time the government did not accept the suggestion but the Prime Minister indicated that consideration was being given to it.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the matter is still being investigated by the Economic Council and this will be one of the matters we will be discussing in the debate to which I referred when our views on this and related matters will be made known.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): A supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister could tell us quite clearly whether parliament