

*Order Paper Questions*

is concerned: (a) Matane-Godbout-Baie Comeau, \$938,-734.64; (b) Rimouski-Forestville, Nil; (c) Rivière-du-Loup-Saint-Siméon, \$266,332.45; (d) Trois-Pistoles-Escoumins, \$104,564.65.

3. Not applicable (see answer to question 1).

**CBC RADIO PROGRAM—"AS IT HAPPENS"**

**Question No. 2,154—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In order, what were the 25 topics most frequently arranged for discussion on CBC radio program "As It Happens" in the period May 1, 1972 to April 30, 1973 and how many times in that period was the discussion arranged on each topic listed?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: In view of the workload involved, the CBC discussed this question with the hon. member who kindly agreed to an attempt by the Corporation to provide a satisfactory response based on a four-month period as opposed to the full year requested. As subsequently explained to the hon. member, however, efforts to meet the intent of the question have not been successful because the necessary information is not readily available and it would be time-consuming and costly to complete the research required on the part of program staff to establish a meaningful listing of topics.

**EARNSCLIFFE**

**Question No. 2,159—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

1. What was (a) the date (b) the result of the last attempt by the government to secure from the Government of Great Britain the return to Canada of the Earnscliffe residence of Sir John A. Macdonald?

2. On what date is it intended to initiate another attempt to have this historic Canadian house returned to Canadian control?

3. If no such initiative is intended, for what reason?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** 1. While discussions have been held with the British authorities from time to time concerning Earnscliffe, the Canadian government has not attempted to acquire control of the property.

2. At the present time, no plans exist to open discussions for the acquisition of this property.

3. This historic building is being conscientiously maintained by the British High Commissioner. None the less, the government may wish to enter into discussions to acquire this property for the nation at some future time should an appropriate opportunity arise.

**AIR CANADA—ASSISTANCE TO AVIS CAR RENTAL AGENCIES**

**Question No. 2,189—Mr. Gleave:**

Has any assistance or promotion been extended to Avis Car Rental agencies at Canadian airports by Air Canada?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Air Canada management advises as follows: Each year more and more passengers come to Air Canada for all elements of what is termed the "total travel experience"—an airline

[Mr. Reid.]

seat combined with a place to stay, a sight-seeing trip, a rental car, etc. As part of the activities being developed to satisfy this demand, the company has initiated a program whereby a passenger can, at the same time as making his flight arrangements, also reserve a rental car. Each of the three major rent-a-car firms in Canada (Tilden, Avis and Hertz) was approached regarding participation in this program. Proposals were reviewed and a complete plan selected which best satisfied Air Canada's commercial and service interests. The plan involves certain arrangements with Avis. However, these are non-exclusive; if the customer asks for a Tilden car or one from any other particular agency, an attempt is made to satisfy his request. Promotion of car rental agencies is done independently of this program. Avis is mentioned in Air Canada advertising material promoting travel tour programs in which Avis is participating, such as "Air Canada's Happy Holidays in Europe", and Tilden in programs such as "Beautiful British Columbia Bargain" and "Skifari".

**NATIONAL DEFENCE—MAINTENANCE AND TERM EMPLOYEES**

**Question No. 2,199—Mr. Forrestall:**

1. How many Department of National Defence maintenance work and service work is carried on by term employees?

2. Will the government give consideration to absorb such term employees with more than one year service into its indeterminate work force, to provide for such employees the same level of protection afforded to other public servants and (a) if not, for what reason (b) if so, how soon?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** 1. As of July 1973: General Labour and Trades, 2,649; General Services, 910; Ship Repair, 1,266; total 4,825.

2. There is no policy or procedure at the present time which will permit the department to appoint a term employee to indeterminate status automatically after 12 months' employment. When an indeterminate position is to be filled, normally all term employees in the group and level of the position being filled will be considered. The decision as to which term employee is to be appointed is based on the merit principle as required by the Public Service Employment Act and Regulations. All unsuccessful term employees in the area of competition are then given right of appeal against the decision. The department has in the past several months reviewed the status of all term positions, and as a result of the study approximately 1,100 new permanent positions were created. These positions will be filled from the term employees in the department's work force. The department will continue this review with the object of keeping the requirement for term employment to a minimum level.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE—SUB-CONTRACTING**

**Question No. 2,203—Mr. Forrestall:**

Is it the policy of the Department of National Defence to extend the practice of subcontracting beyond the present level of subcontracts?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** The few service contracts National Defence places directly are for consultants, cleaning services, etc.,