

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would explain the reason. No doubt there is a reason for this action, and the house should certainly have the information.

Mr. Drury: I will be glad to explain, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the committee now has some time available to consider the supplementary estimates, which previously it did not look as if it would have. I think it is the view of most members of the house that the committee system is useful, and that where the committees have the time and ability to study the estimates, they should do so.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plans.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

NATIONAL DEFENCE AND DEFENCE PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES

Question No. 575—Mr. Davis:

What were the total expenditures of (a) the Department of National Defence, by province, for the fiscal year 1963-64 (b) the Department of Defence Production, by province, for the fiscal year 1963-64?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Departments of National Defence and Defence Production as follows: Information is not now available to provide an accurate answer to this question and the necessary expert staff is not available to undertake the large amount of work which would be required to gather the necessary information.

Questions

*DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR RETURNING OFFICERS

Question No. 1,346—Mr. Ricard:

1. Has the returning officer, during his term of office, the right to ask for funds for the benefit of a political party?
2. If not, are disciplinary measures provided and what are they?

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this question, in my view, appears to ask basically for an interpretation of the provisions of the Canada Elections Act. It is my understanding that ministers of the crown cannot properly offer such legal interpretations; thus I do not feel that I can rightfully attempt to answer this question by the hon. member in its present form.

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I feel the hon. member could have given me an answer much sooner, as my question has been on the order paper since April 22, 1966. It seems to me the reason he has just given me is really no reason at all.

[English]

TOILET FACILITIES ON PUBLIC WHARVES, NOVA SCOTIA

Question No. 1,371—Mr. Coates:

1. On what public wharves in Nova Scotia has the federal government installed toilet facilities?
2. What is the annual revenue available to the federal government for the installation of toilet facilities on public wharves in Nova Scotia and which of the wharves make payments and in what amount in each case?
3. From whom are the revenues received in each case?

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Caribou, Pictou, Sydney and Yarmouth.

2 and 3. Public toilet facilities are installed at the Caribou and Yarmouth ferry wharves. At Pictou, small office and toilet facilities installed in wharf shed for Magdalen Islands Transportation Company Limited under lease, annual rental \$690. At Sydney a portion of the wharf shed, including toilet facilities, is occupied by Robin Hood Flour Mills Limited under lease, annual rental \$8,400.

APPEAL RESPECTING INDIAN HUNTING RIGHTS

Question No. 1,449—Mr. Schreyer:

Has the Indian affairs branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration taken any action toward appealing a recent decision of the Manitoba