

4. Was the Secretary of State aware that a regularly-scheduled Air Canada aircraft which could have carried the Minister's party to London landed shortly before the Minister's jet and, if so, for what reason did the Minister feel it was necessary to travel by government aircraft?

5. At what time did the Secretary of State's aircraft leave London for the return trip and what was its destination?

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the President of the Privy Council and the Minister of State for Science and Technology as follows: 1. (a), (b) and 2. See reply to question No. 2,881.

3. (a) Rental car and private car. (b) \$34.

4. Please see reply to Part 4 of question No. 69 answered November 15, 1976.

5. (a) July 10, 1976 at 1:00 p.m. (b) Ottawa with stops at Belleville and Trenton.

POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Question No. 657—Mr. Lachance:

Between the date of the presentation of the last budget May 25, 1976 and October 12, 1976, did the Post Office Department hire, dismiss or transfer employees to other departments and, if so, how many?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): (1) 5,146; (2) 1,024; (3) 145.

REGIONAL OFFICES—MINISTERIAL EXEMPTED STAFF

Question No. 699—Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):

1. (a) How many regional offices have been established across Canada staffed by Ministerial exempted staff or by other appointees (b) in what locations (c) what are the names of the officers staffing them (d) from what funds are rent and other office expenses paid (e) what is the cost for each such office?

2. (a) To whose staff is each appointee attached (b) do regional officers report solely to the ministers appointing them or do they have other reporting responsibilities?

3. (a) At what salary are appointments made and with what sort of allowances for travel, etc. (b) from what funds are such salaries and allowances paid?

4. What fringe benefits are enjoyed by the officers in charge of the offices, e.g., use of services aircraft on priority or stand-by basis?

5. What are the terms of reference of the officers exercising these duties and, in what manner are such terms of reference reconciled with the normal duties exercised by Members of Parliament?

6. What are the relationships between these regional offices and Liberal Members of Parliament and their constituency offices?

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): It has been the policy of numerous governments to provide an office and requisite staff for ministers of the Crown in their home communities so that they may continue to function as ministers when they are at home rather than in Ottawa. These are not regional offices—"Regional Office" being defined as one which administers all activities of the department in a particular region—but are supplementary offices intended to expedite the governing of the nation by ministers who reside normally in many different areas of the country. The Minister of Agriculture, as a result of the particularly great importance of agriculture to the western economy, maintains this type of supplementary office in

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Regina. In so far as that office is concerned, the answer is as follows: 1. (a) 1; (b) Regina; (c) Special Assistant—vacant; Mrs. I. Lamothe; (d) Departmental appropriations; (e) 1975-76—\$34,572.00 (including salaries and expenses except for accommodation).

2. (a) Minister's staff; (b) Report to minister.

3. (a) In accordance with salary scales and ranges established for exempt staff and public servants with no allowances. (b) Departmental appropriations.

4. None.

5. Special assistant to the minister with specific responsibility for Western Canada.

6. No formal relationship exists between the offices.

DREE PROJECTS IN QUEBEC

Question No. 722—Mr. Coates:

1. How many specific projects in Quebec has the Department of Regional Economic Expansion been financially involved in since its inception and, in each case, what was the financial involvement?

2. Of the total number of projects, what was the estimated employment figure given at the time of the announced involvement of DREE and for those firms still operating, what is the employment figure actually attributable to the financial assistance in each case, as of this date?

3. Of DREE's financial assistance to each project, what is the breakdown between outright grants and loans?

4. How many of the projects have failed and, in each case (a) on what date was the grant and loan approved (b) on what date did it fail?

5. How many employees lost employment as a result of the failure of the project at the date of the closure?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The reply for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is as follows: 1. As of October 31, 1976, 2,143 projects in the province of Quebec had accepted offers of financial assistance from DREE under the regional development incentives program. The total value of these incentives offers is estimated to be \$246.0 million. The names of the firms and respective amounts of incentives are available from the reports on the program that are submitted monthly to Parliament.

2. For the 2,143 projects, the estimated employment figure at the time of the announced involvement of DREE was 78,918. Of this total number of projects, 864 were completed as of October 31, 1976. The number of direct jobs actually created at the completion of the control period for these 864 projects, was 29,367 compared to the 31,612 jobs forecasted when the offers of financial assistance were announced. In this context, a "completed project" is one on which the full amount of the development incentive authorized by the minister under the statute has been paid to the applicant. This definition includes (a) a project which has successfully completed its control period, irrespective of any subsequent actions, and (b) a project involving a bankruptcy or total cessation of operations due to fire or other circumstances which requires the department to institute action to recover only part of the incentive paid to the applicant. With respect to this latter type of project, it is to be noted that the statute entitles the