

Order Paper Questions

TOTAL AMOUNT OF OLD AGE PENSIONS PAID

Question No. 4,945—**Mr. Matte:**

What was the total amount of old age pensions paid in (a) Canada (b) each province during the fiscal years (i) 1973-74 (ii) 1974-75 (iii) 1975-76?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): (a) (i) and (ii) See Public Accounts of Canada, 1975, volume II, section 34, page 13; (iii) 1975-1976 fiscal year not yet concluded. (b) (i) and (ii) See Public Accounts of Canada, 1975, volume II, section 34, page 13; (iii) 1975-1976 fiscal year not yet concluded.

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[English]

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if questions Nos. 3,319 and 3,490 could be made orders for return, these returns would be tabled immediately.

[Text]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS LOCATED IN HULL

Question No. 3,319—**Mr. Jones:**

1. What departments or offices are located in Hull, Quebec?
2. Do any such departments or offices have offices located outside of Ottawa or Hull?
3. How much area or space is occupied by each department or office in Parts 1 and 2?
4. How much of the area or space in Part 3 is (a) privately (b) publicly owned?
5. (a) How many employees are employed in Hull (b) what is the total annual payroll (c) how many are (i) unilingual French (ii) unilingual English (iii) bilingual?
6. What are the details, including rent, unit rate for each tenancy or lease of all area or space rented or occupied by departments in Hull?
7. How many more departments or employees does the government plan to locate in Hull in the next (a) year (b) two years (c) three years (d) four years (e) five years?
8. Is space available or can space be allocated for such employees in Ottawa?

Return tabled.

GRANTS TO CONSTITUENCY OF RICHMOND

Question No. 3,490—**Mr. Beaudoin:**

1. How much money has been granted to the Constituency of Richmond from 1968 to November 1, 1975, with the exception of grants made under the Opportunities for Youth, Local Initiatives and New Horizons Programmes?
2. For each such grant, what is the (a) date of approval (b) amount (c) name of the municipality concerned (d) nature of the project?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

[English]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTIONS TO REPORTS OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONS—ONTARIO

The House resumed, from Monday, April 5, consideration of objections to reports of the Electoral Boundaries Commissions for various provinces.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The House will now resume consideration of the objections to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Ontario.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few brief comments with regard to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Ontario, 1976. When the idea of an independent commission on electoral boundaries was first implemented in 1964 it was to get away from the government bringing in a bill setting out what the boundaries would be for redistribution, with the principal aim being to prevent gerrymandering of the ridings either by members or by the government.

The commission itself is a very independent one; it is not appointed by the government but by Mr. Speaker and other independent bodies. Another aim was to get away from the long debate and study of the redistribution question by parliamentary committees. One might ask, if this is the second time the independent commission has acted to bring in a report, has this all worked out? There can be no question that the commission has shown that it is an independent body. I think we may ask ourselves with regard to the present redistribution which has been going on since the 1971 census—really, since 1972—whether this is the most expeditious way to handle redistribution, because hon. members will recall that the commission brought in a report in 1973 which was not accepted by the House. That redistribution was stopped by an act of parliament and the number of seats in parliament was increased by a bill at that time. Since this redistribution started in 1972, this is the fourth set of maps which has been presented to the House.

Some hon. members feel that this report is a good one; some think it is terrible. I believe there is one matter on which there is a great deal of unanimity, at least on the part of the members of parliament and the people of northern Ontario, and that is that we are disappointed that this report proposes that the number of seats in northern Ontario be reduced from 12 to 11. The representations from communities, from municipalities and from other groups have been long and hard since the preliminary maps were published last August in an effort to maintain the present strength of 12 members in the House of Commons.

I believe that the town of Geraldton circulated a petition to practically every municipality in northern Ontario, and at least a dozen from my own constituency endorsed that petition asking that the present strength of 12 members in the House of Commons be maintained. Likewise, there were public representations at the hearings in Sudbury