

Routine Proceedings

A further 20 employees have been on secondment from various departments for various periods of time. The salary cost since January 1, 1990 for all these staff is estimated to have been \$529,331.

b) Public Service 2000 is a Public Service-wide initiative and it would be very difficult to put a meaningful value on the time spent by deputy ministers and other staff on the task forces.

c) It is not clear what is meant by "the current promotion campaign". Since the beginning, press releases, speeches, articles in Public Service and departmental publications, reports, fact sheets, et cetera, have been produced and distributed by the central agencies and by departments. This kind of activity will continue as an inevitable and essential part of a major administrative reform.

d) Since the government has not yet taken a position on most of the many PS 2000 recommendations, it is far too early to give a meaningful response.

DISPOSAL OF TAILINGS FROM ABANDONED URANIUM MINES

Question No. 396—**Mr. Pagtakhan:**

Has the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada or the Government of Canada ever approved a policy for the permanent disposal of the tailings from abandoned uranium mines and, in any case, who is responsible for managing the tailings from abandoned uranium mines where the former or original owner no longer exists or cannot be located?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): In 1975 the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) started directly regulating uranium mining in Canada. In addition to ensuring that the mining activities do not pose any undue risks to members of the public and to the environment, the AECB has established a policy regarding financial responsibility for the decommissioning of uranium mining facilities, including the tailing areas. The operator of a mining facility must submit to the AECB, at the earliest stages of operation, a plan outlining the financial assurances for all decommissioning activities in the short term as well as in the long term. Since no mining facility subject to AECB regulations has been abandoned, no AECB policy has been developed to date for disposal of tailings from uranium mining facilities for which no owner may be identified. There are no known cases of uranium mines which ceased operations before 1975, where it is not

currently possible to identify an owner who would be responsible for the proper decommissioning of the site. In the event that a responsible owner could not be identified, proper decommissioning of the site would lie with the federal and provincial governments. EMR is currently discussing this matter with various governmental departments and agencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B) 1990-91 NATIONAL DEFENCE VOTE 20B EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS—CONTRIBUTIONS

Question No. 409—**Mr. Milliken:**

In the Supplementary Estimates (B) 1990-91, under National Defence vote 20b—Emergency Preparedness—Contributions, were any natural disasters the cause of the requests for payments, and if so, which disasters?

Hon. Bill Hunter McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Two payments were made for natural disasters under disaster financial assistance arrangements. They were:

- 1) 1988 Flood in Manitoba
- 2) 1983 Storm in Quebec

COST OF COURT ACTION

Question No. 414—**Mr. Fisher:**

What was the cost of the court action which followed the 1989 Public Service Alliance complaint pertaining to essential services designation?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): It is estimated that these costs were approximately \$35,000. About \$1,000 of the amount was spent on court filing fees, travel costs of Employer's witnesses in PSSRB proceedings, and printing costs. The rest of the amount represents salary costs incurred by Department of Justice lawyers, Treasury Board Secretariat and departmental employees who worked on the files, as well as the associated clerical and secretarial help. All counsel involved on the Employer's side were Department of Justice lawyers. There were no expenditures of funds to engage private sector lawyers.

PENSIONS

Question No. 418—**Mr. Harvard:**

Will representatives of the Armed Forces Pensioners'/Annuitants' Association of Canada be invited to become part of the current committee of public servants in Treasury Board who are preparing a new Pension Reform Bill?