

*Order Paper Questions*

a result of changes brought about by the Bank of Canada in total reserves.

3. Bank of Canada notes and chartered bank deposits with the Bank of Canada do not bear interest. The chartered banks therefore do not gain any revenue from their holdings of cash reserves.

## TRADE UNIONS—SECURITY BRIEFINGS

Question No. 2,388—**Mr. Rodriguez:**

With reference to the answer to Question No. 973, were any briefings as described delivered to any trade unions and (a) if so, in what locations and on what dates (b) if not, for what reason?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** No. (a) Not applicable. (b) No requests for such briefings have been received by the Ministry of the Solicitor General from trade unions.

## NUMBER OF PORTS OF ENTRY IN CANADA

Question No. 2,413—**Mr. Dick:**

What was the total number of ports of entry in existence in Canada and recognized by the Department of National Revenue for each year (a) 1900 (b) 1910 (c) 1920 (d) 1930 (e) 1940 (f) 1950 (g) 1960 (h) 1970 (i) 1971 (j) 1972 (k) 1973 (l) 1974?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue):** (a) 406; (b) 413; (c) 492; (d) 506; (e) 340; (f) 340; (g) 399; (h) 356; (i) 342; (j) 339; (k) 335; (l) 334.

\* \* \*

## QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

## ALBERTA—ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

Question No. 1,556—**Mr. Andre:**

During each year 1972, 1973 and 1974, how much money was paid to Alberta firms for the purchase of architectural and engineering services?

Return tabled.

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege with regard to the answers given to questions on the order paper. With regard to Question No. 2,238, I feel the reply given does not do justice to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Since the question dealt with the publication of the debts of the provinces within Confederation on July 1st, 1867, and the figures were not given for the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, I should like the parliamentary secretary to give special attention to that question and complete the answer, if possible, at the first opportunity.

[English]

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, again I rise on a point of order regarding my questions 1,480 to 1,511 inclusive. Today, during the question period, the minister of external affairs said that these questions were going to cost \$10,000

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

to lay on the table as orders for return. The last time I asked this question, which I think was two sessions ago, the parliamentary secretary to the House leader explained that it was going to cost \$1 million to answer one question, and I found out after searching some files, particularly a computer file, that it cost only \$256. The minister is now saying to the House that the answers to these questions will cost \$10,000.

● (1510)

If the department does not have files to which they can refer for these particular contracts, especially a department that has \$1 billion to work with, and therefore cannot come up with these figures, there is something wrong or the department is incompetent. We in this House should try to find out exactly what kind of a filing system the department has and just what we have to do to get these figures.

I am sorry the minister felt he should take the opportunity during the question period to stick it to me, if you will allow me that expression, but I really think he has to come up with an answer and I intend to keep pressing him for it.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to question No. 2,465 to which a response but not an answer was given the last day. The question sought to trace the number of executive assistants, special assistants and other exempt staff and employees of ministers who have been filtered in under the exempt staff provisions to the public service and various agencies. I had asked a similar, but longer question earlier specifying a much larger category of staff including secretaries, consultants, advisers and the like.

The response to the earlier question was that it would take too long to answer. While not accepting that, I nonetheless shortened my question considerably to only three categories of personnel appointments, namely, research assistants, special assistants and executive assistants. This involves a small number of people who would be easy to trace if the government wanted to reveal the degree to which it is putting these political appointees into the public service. The government does not want to do that, and for that reason it has not answered the question.

I raise the matter now as a point of order, to point out that the government is hiding from public view the degree to which it is filtering political appointees into the public service under the exempt staff provisions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.