

PEI—COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Question No. 3,842—Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):

1. With reference to the fishing sector of the Prince Edward Island Comprehensive Development Plan, what measures have been implemented which are designed to keep fish (a) fresher (b) in better condition prior to delivery to regular refrigeration facilities?

2. For each year since 1965, what is the estimated percentage of the total market value of the PEI fish catch which is lost due to spoilage prior to its delivery to regular refrigeration facilities?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Regional Economic Expansion and of the Environment as follows: 1. (a) Measures to keep fish fresher include the provision of ice and better handling facilities. (b) Measures to keep fish in better condition prior to delivery to regular refrigeration facilities include the provision of ice, water supply, port infrastructure, better handling facilities, education and extension work.

2. Statistics on spoilage are not collected.

PEI—COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Question No. 3,855—Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):

1. With reference to the fishing sector of the Prince Edward Island Comprehensive Development Plan, is there a general policy of encouraging consolidation in processing of the major fish catches while developing localized processing capabilities for specialized fish products and, if not, for what reason?

2. Would significant economies of scale be achieved through consolidation of the processing of major fish stocks and, if so, what (a) is the optimum number of plants that should be in operation for major fish stock processing (b) type of saving would such economies of scale represent (c) would be the cost of such consolidation in jobs and incomes?

3. How many small scale plants for the processing of specialty fish products (a) are now in operation (b) would be economically viable in PEI based on (i) catch statistics for recent years (ii) estimated catch statistics following a vigorous programme of aquaculture and increasing the take of existing stocks up to maximum sustainable level?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Department of the Environment as follows: 1. No. The general policy is to encourage efficiency in fish processing.

2. The Fisheries and Marine Service has not undertaken any investigations relating to economics of scale in fish processing on Prince Edward Island.

3. Information on the number of small plants producing specialty fish products is not collected.

PRIVATE PENSION PLANS

Question No. 5,026—Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):

1. How many persons are receiving pensions from private pension plans, such pensions being based on employment in Canada and what is the average pension per month received by such persons?

2. Of those indicated in the answer to Part (1), (a) how many are having their pensions escalated annually at a rate equal to the rise in the Consumer Price Index (b) how many are having their pensions escalated annually at a lesser rate (c) how many receive no annual escalation of their pensions?

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3. How many persons are contributing to or are enrolled in private pension plans based on their employment in Canada?

4. Of those indicated in the answer to Part (3), (a) how many are in plans which provide, after retirement, for an annual escalation of their pensions at a rate equal to the rise in the Consumer Price Index (b) how many are in plans which provide, after retirement, for an annual escalation at a lesser rate (c) how many are in plans which provide for no escalation, after retirement, of their pensions?

5. How many persons in Canada are receiving retirement benefits from annuities, insurance plans, retirement savings plans or other schemes apart from employment-related pension plans and what is the average amount per month received by such persons from such plans?

6. Of those indicated in the answer to Part (5), (a) how many are having such benefits escalated annually at a rate equal to the rise in the Consumer Price Index (b) how many are having their benefits escalated annually at a lesser rate (c) how many receive no annual escalation of their benefits?

7. How many persons in Canada are enrolled in retirement plans of all types other than employment-related pension plans?

8. Of those indicated in the answer to Part (7), (a) how many are enrolled in plans which will provide, after the payment of benefits commences, for an annual escalation equal to the rise in the Consumer Price Index (b) how many are enrolled in plans which will provide, after the payment of benefits commences, for an annual escalation at a lesser rate (c) how many are enrolled in plans which will provide, after the payment of benefits commences, for no escalation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by Statistics Canada and the Department of National Revenue as follows: 1. There are no precise data available on the number of persons in Canada who are in receipt of benefits from private pension plans. At best some proxy data are available from income tax statistics but these data have some limitations. They do not include the entire universe of pensioners because many have incomes too low to file a tax return. However, special tabulations of income tax records show that 605,700 persons received benefits from private pension plans. It was estimated that about 15 per cent to 20 per cent of these were in receipt of supplementary benefits such as widows' or orphans' pensions or disability benefits, but around 80 per cent were pensioners. The average annual income was \$2,105.

2, 5, 6, 7 and 8. There are no departmental programs to capture this information either by analysis of documentation filed for registration purposes or through filing of special information returns.

3. At the beginning of 1974 there were 3,424,245 persons covered by private plans based on employment in Canada.

4. (a) Some 502,500 persons were in plans that have escalation tied directly to the Consumer Price Index. (b) 105,400 were in plans providing for escalation at a rate less than the increase in the Consumer Price Index. (c) 2,816,350 persons were in pension plans that provided for no automatic escalation of pensions after retirement. However, a number of plans periodically review their benefit structure and make upward adjustments to pensions being paid to their retired employees on an ad hoc basis.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURN

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if questions Nos. 3,240