

reappointed as Clerk of the Privy Council and secretary to the cabinet. Conflict of interest statements were deposited in the Conflict of Interest Public Registry with regard to both periods of time. Details of information reported to the Assistant Deputy Registrar General by any person subject to the government's guidelines on conflict of interest are personal and confidential. No private company in which Mr. Pitfield has an interest has ever done business with the federal government while he was a member of the public service.

Question No. 674—Mr. Cossitt:

Did Mr. Michael Pitfield state that the payment he received after leaving his position as secretary to the cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council following the May 22, 1979, general election was allegedly to cover in part damages and, if so, what are all the reasons justifying any claim that he was damaged and what damages did he suffer?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): See reply to question 672 answered today. The government of the day authorized payment of separation pay to Mr. Pitfield in line with standing government policy established by P.C. 1977-3325, November 24, 1977, which reads as follows: "His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Treasury Board, is pleased hereby to approve payment of separation pay, as follows, to

—persons appointed by the Public Service Commission to the senior executive group of the executive category; and
—Deputy Ministers and other persons appointed by the Governor in Council

—whose positions are slotted into the DM/SX structure and whose salaries are fixed or approved by the Governor in Council at rates within the DM/SX salary ranges on the basis of an annual performance review and following consideration by the special Cabinet Committee on the Public Service and the Cabinet; and

—whose non-salary compensation, other than superannuation, is not prescribed by statute or by regulation made pursuant to the statute or by bylaw of the agency in which they are employed,

- (a) with the approval of the Treasury Board, in an amount which, together with any severance pay to which he is entitled, does not exceed 104 weeks' pay, when his employment is terminated at the initiative of the Government; and
- (b) notwithstanding the provisions of (a) above, and with the approval of the Treasury Board, notice of termination of employment may be given in lieu of, or in combination with, separation pay but such notice, or combination of notice and separation pay, shall not exceed 104 weeks." Mr. Pitfield received separation pay significantly below the maximum amount which would have been permissible under P.C. 1977-3325.

Order Paper Questions

Question No. 675—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Did Mr. Michael Pitfield pay back to the Receiver General of Canada any portion of the moneys paid to him at the time he ceased to be secretary to the cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council following the general election of May 22, 1979, and, if so (a) on what date (b) what was the amount returned and how was it arrived at?

2. What were the amounts and dates of any cheques received by the Receiver General?

3. Did Mr. Pitfield return all the money he received for what he has referred to as "severance", other than the salary he would have received during the nine month period of time before he returned to the same position and, if not, for what reason?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):

1, 2 and 3: See answer to question 672 answered today.

Question No. 678—Mr. Cossitt:

With reference to Mr. Michael Pitfield's absence of nine months from the position of secretary to the cabinet and Clerk of the Privy Council raised in the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 22, 1980, by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville, did Mr. Pitfield state publicly in reference to the hon. member's remarks "it's goddamn unfair . . . it's just not true" and, if so (a) was he stating government policy (b) was he instructed by the government to change his remarks in a written statement made later on the same day indicating the opposite with certain clarifications?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):

I am informed as follows: Yes.

(a) No.

(b) No.

Question No. 1,271—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Did the office of Mr. Michael Pitfield, Clerk of the Privy Council and secretary to the cabinet, receive numerous telephone calls from Mr. Ben Tierney of Southam News, requesting to speak to Mr. Pitfield between April 28 and May 1, 1980, as well as a number of other calls and, if so (a) did Mr. Pitfield return the calls and, if not (i) for what reason (ii) is it government policy that the senior public servant does not have to return telephone calls received (b) what was the total number of telephone calls from Mr. Tierney?

2. Was the Prime Minister's press office contacted requesting assistance in making contact with Mr. Pitfield?

3. Did Mr. Pitfield receive a hand delivered letter containing a list of questions from Mr. Tierney concerning the \$107,800 he received when he left his position in June, 1979?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):

1. Mr. Pitfield spoke to Mr. Tierney on two occasions in April, 1980, concerning Mr. Pitfield's statement to the press gallery of April 22, 1980. Mr. Tierney's questions on these occasions were of a persistently personal nature. It is not incumbent on a public servant or anyone else to answer a journalist in these circumstances, nor can the degree of a public servant's obligation, willingness and ability to assist journalists be measured by the frequency of one journalist's telephone calls.

2. Yes.

3. Yes. The questions were again characterized by their personal nature.