

how many (i) were fluently bilingual (ii) underwent English-language training (iii) underwent English-language testing (iv) passed English-language training?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): In so far as the Canadian Radio-Television Commission is concerned: (a) Anglophones, 56; (i) Bilingual Anglophones, 12; (ii) Language training, 19; (iii) Completed language training, 6; (iv) Passed test, 6; (b) Francophones, 72; (i) Bilingual Francophones, 59; (ii) Language training, 2; (iii) Completed language training, 2; (iv) Passed test, 2.

HIGH TENSION ELECTRICAL LINES

Question No. 2,377—Mr. Herbert:

1. Have there been any discussions between officials of the Department of Transport and Hydro-Quebec or the Government of Quebec concerning the locations at which the high tension electrical lines to export power to New York State will cross the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers?

2. Have any decisions or agreements been made?

3. Is this matter of concern to the Minister of Transport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): 1. Discussions have been held with Hydro-Quebec relating to high tension electrical lines crossing the Ottawa River below Carillon and the St. Lawrence River above Beauharnois.

2. No.

3. All overhead power transmission lines are of concern to the Ministry of Transport from the point of view of clearance above water level for the protection of navigation.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

DREE GRANTS

Question No. 1,116—Mr. Laprise:

1. Since the establishment of DREE, what were the amounts granted by province each year for the creation of new jobs (a) for Canadian businesses (b) for foreign businesses?

2. For each amount, how much was allocated to the (a) timber industry (b) lumber industry (c) pulp and paper industry?

Return tabled.

COST OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL MEDICARE 1973 AND 1974

Question No. 1,910—Mr. Rynard:

1. For the years 1973 and 1974, how much was spent on (a) national and provincial medicare (b) hospital care?

2. By province, what is the (a) total health care costs for (i) acute (ii) mental (iii) chronic (b) number of chronic care units and what is the cost per bed?

3. What is the contribution per bed by the government (a) in active treatment hospitals (b) for chronic care units?

Return tabled.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order which again stems from the reply by the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding my questions on the

Housing

order paper Nos. 1,480 to 1,511 inclusive. The minister said in reply:

—I believe that to answer all the hon. gentleman's questions fully would cost in excess of \$10,000. Maybe a more selective approach on the part of the hon. member would relieve me of concern in that area and possibly provide him with the information he is seeking.

I would suggest, through you, Mr. Speaker, that if the hon. member would like to send over the files I would be able to pick out the information and I am sure it would not cost \$10,000.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REVERSE DECLINE IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands) moved:

That this House urges the government to take strong and immediate action to reverse the decline in residential construction so that Canadians again can have access to decent housing at prices they can afford.

She said: Mr. Speaker, today we have a debate in this chamber because we are experiencing at present a crisis in the residential construction industry. For the past year the health of this vital sector of our economy has deteriorated from warning symptoms to an acute illness. It has deteriorated because of the government's failure to recognize the severity of the problem in the housing sector and its failure to take any effective action. There should be no crisis today, but the government ignored the warnings, disregarded the facts and misjudged the economic situation in this country.

I could quote the words, promises and intentions with regard to housing made by the government over the past 15 months, but that exercise would be as fruitless as the measures they have taken to deal with the crisis. Let me assure the minister, who last fall stated that the "situation is a problem rather than a crisis", that the crisis has now escalated to emergency proportions. The housing situation today in Canada is critical. Without strong and effective action by the federal government it can only worsen in the months ahead to the point where we will be facing a genuine housing crisis in the full sense of the term.

In effect, we have two major housing problems today. We have a supply problem. At the current rate of activity we simply are not going to build enough new housing units in Canada this year even to meet our minimal requirements in terms of new family formations. We also have a serious cost problem, particularly in regard to mortgage interest rates. At current cost, many Canadians simply cannot afford to purchase a home of their own; many others are forced to spend a disproportionate amount of their disposable incomes on housing in order to meet these high costs.

A word or two on the supply issue. Even with some improvement during the month, new housing starts in