

● (1420)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations concerning the executive group of the public service were accepted in cabinet, with modifications, last July—to be precise on July 24. We had received in April the report of the Lambert committee indicating certain new ranges. We studied these new ranges and modified them somewhat, and then on July 24 we accepted these new ranges with the proviso that the increases as a total would not be beyond 10 per cent. We were, in a sense, anticipating the guidelines at that time. I am told that when the calculations and the slotting were made within those ranges they arrived at an average of 9.3 per cent as the total increase as the result of the decision we took last July. The present period extends from last April to next April, and in so far as any further slotting is concerned I can assure the House that it will be well under not only the 8 per cent or 10 per cent guidelines, but that the ceiling of \$2,400 will apply.

DATE OF TREASURY BOARD APPROVAL OF SALARY
INCREASES FOR EXECUTIVE CATEGORY—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF TREASURY BOARD MINUTE

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister indicate whether in fact the finalization of this increase was assigned to the Treasury Board and, if so, would he indicate on what date the Treasury Board finalized the increase and when was the minute signed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is important for members of the House to understand that when we made the decision in July, it was a decision as to the ranges which would be applied to every civil servant at a senior executive level. The actual slotting is done by way of a rather lengthy process in a cabinet committee, assisted by senior officials, which looks at the performance of each individual and decides how that individual performs and whether he should be slotted high, medium or low in the range. This process began after the July authorization by cabinet and it went on for a period of several weeks. I think that probably in August not a great deal of work was done, but the whole matter was carried out between August and two weeks ago.

Mr. Stevens: I have a final supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Treasury Board minute covering this increase has not been delivered to the order in council office, would the Prime Minister table the Treasury Board minute in which these increases were finalized?

Mr. Trudeau: I do not have this minute. If it is customary to table such minutes, I will do so. I believe that in the normal course of events they appear in the *Canada Gazette* with the date. I believe that the appendices to these minutes are confidential and that they give the exact point in the slotting, but the general range is given in the order in council. I would have to verify whether the order in council is published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Oral Questions

SUGGESTION SALARY INCREASES FOR EXECUTIVE
CATEGORY APPROVED AT SAME CABINET MEETING AS
CONTROL PROGRAM ADOPTED

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister of which I have given him notice which follows on the previous questions. Can the Prime Minister inform the House whether the salary increases for deputy ministers to which reference was made were given final and formal approval, not just accepted, at the last cabinet meeting before the Prime Minister's Thanksgiving announcement of the control program, the same cabinet meeting at which the control program was finally adopted, as I have heard from some one close to the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nystrom: My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, as I have touched a sensitive spot—

Mr. Speaker: Since the hon. member is the lead off questioner, I do not want to interfere unduly with his right to ask a supplementary question, but a supplementary question really must arise, or ought to arise, out of an answer given. If a question meets with no answer, it is very difficult to imagine how a supplementary question could be allowed. However, perhaps the hon. member might try one more question.

Mr. Nystrom: I shall rephrase the question. In view of a statement today by a spokesman in the Prime Minister's office suggesting that orders in council have been signed in the last two weeks increasing the salaries of 250 senior public servants, as well as a statement by someone close to the Prime Minister that the final and formal decision was made at the same cabinet meeting which finally approved the guidelines, would the Prime Minister be in a position to indicate to the House on motions or to table in the House all of the agreements and documents which we are asking about as to when final and formal agreement was given for these salary increases?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the final and formal agreement was given on July 24. I repeat that following July 24 the process of slotting goes on, which takes place every year, and this follows the recommendations of the advisory council on executive salaries. It goes on every year to judge the performance of the various civil servants. This sometimes takes weeks; sometimes it takes months.

I repeat my earlier answer: if this type of order in council is published in the *Canada Gazette*, the hon. member will know the date or dates. It may have been something which Treasury Board decided at one or several meetings; I do not know. It is even possible that the cheques themselves have not gone out, or they may have gone out. I do not know the answer to that either. I have not received any thank you letters yet. I do know that, as in every year, we look at the report of the advisory committee, and at some point in the year the cabinet decides to accept it, reject it or modify it. This was done last July.

Mr. Nystrom: Were those orders in council finally agreed to at the last cabinet meeting prior to the