

Order Paper Questions

2, 3 and 4. See above.

DND—CONTRACT WITH HANSON-MOHAWK INC.

Question No. 3,165—**Mr. McKinnon:**

Is the Department of National Defence buying socks from Hanson-Mohawk Inc. under contract number 13GA.2511007 (2GA81-00224) for the amount of \$1,107,975 and, if so, how many pairs?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): The Department of Supply and Services has awarded a contract on behalf of the Department of National Defence in the amount of \$1,107,975 for 671,500 pairs of socks.

LOBBYISTS

Question No. 3,246—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Is the government aware of an increase in the number of persons or groups acting as lobbyists with members of Parliament on Parliament Hill?

2. Is the government aware that lobbyists in the United States must be registered or licensed and has the government considered or will it be considering establishing a similar system in Canada?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): 1. The government does not maintain statistics on this subject.

2. The government is aware of the system in the United States and has had many suggestions made about possible adaptations for the Canadian context but does not expect to be able to make any proposals in the very near future.

COST OF ANSWERING QUESTION

Question No. 3,252—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. What is the estimated cost of answering Question No. 3,239 on the Order Paper in the name of the hon. member for Kitchener asking the cost of answering questions by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville regarding use by cabinet ministers of Department of Transport aircraft?

2. Was the question suggested for drafting by a member of the government for inclusion on the Order Paper by the hon. member for Kitchener?

3. Is the government trying to discourage questions from the opposition by emphasizing that it costs a certain amount of money to prepare an answer, rather than emphasizing freedom of information to the Canadian people?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1. \$125 plus costs of translation and printing of the question and answer in the Order Paper and the *Debates*.

2. No.

3. The government encourages all of its employees to make available as much information as is consistent with the security of the nation and is amused when Members of Parliament put down questions on the Order Paper to which they have obviously the answers but not the courage to make the information public themselves. The government is not amused, however, by the expense thereby incurred by the public. The government does not regret the discomfort of hon. members who so abuse the system when other more diligent hon. members point out this behaviour.

BEHAVIOUR OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

Question No. 3,283—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. With reference to the answer to question No. 3,029 which stated in part that the government will not answer questions concerning complaints about public servants (a) did it answer such questions in the past (b) has there been a change in government policy to bring about the present attitude and, if so, on what date was the policy changed and by whose orders?

2. Is the government following a policy of attempting to discourage members of Parliament from using the Order Paper to obtain information where a public servant was allegedly rude and crude with the staff of a Member of Parliament as well as with the Member of Parliament?

3. Is the government now following a policy of permitting bureaucrats to insult Members of Parliament and to deny them information?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1, 2 and 3. The government does not approve of public servants insulting or abusing any person, whether or not this person is a Member of Parliament. As stated in the answer to Question No. 3029, any such abuse, if reported to the minister concerned, will be acted upon. The government does not regard the posing of a question on the Order Paper as a serious route of seeking correction of an unsatisfactory situation involving a citizen and a public servant.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Question No. 3,284—**Mr. Cossitt:**

With reference to the answer to question No. 3,029 concerning the actions of a public servant by the name of Mr. Ed Webster (a) which department completed the answer to this question (b) was this question ever referred to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and, if so, for what reason was the answer not signed by that minister (c) was the answer signed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council and, if so (i) under whose authority (ii) what part, if any, did the President of the Privy Council or anyone on his staff play in the preparation of the answer?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): (a), (b), (c)(i) and (ii). The Office of the President of the Privy Council is responsible for co-ordinating the answering of Questions on the Order Paper. In accordance with section 3 of the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, this function is a particular assignment to the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council. In order to improve the provision of information in response to questions intended to seek information rather than to proselytize or complain, questions in the latter category will continue to be dealt with in the most expeditious manner possible.

[*English*]

Mr. Smith: I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.