

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

MR. PINARD—TYPE OF QUESTIONS TO BE AVOIDED DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that during Oral Question Period, a question was directed to a minister which did not involve his departmental responsibilities but those he has as a member of a cabinet committee. With due respect, that is against the procedures of this House, and I should not like to see this practice continue in the future. Today we did not interrupt Oral Question Period to raise a point of order, so as to allow the opposition to continue with their questions, but in future, I should appreciate it if members were not allowed to direct questions to a minister in his capacity as a member of a cabinet committee. According to Beaudesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Chapter 359(b), fifth edition, a minister may only be questioned on his responsibilities in his present portfolio.

Madam Speaker: I have taken note of the minister's point of order. I apologize for what happened, but in listening to the question, I thought part of it concerned international trade, and I noticed the minister replied with some hesitation, without realizing why. In any case, the President of the Privy Council is absolutely right.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,714, 3,020, 3,446, 3,457, 3,492, 3,525, and 3,538.

[Text]

INTERCEPTION OF MAIL IN UNITED STATES

Question No. 2,714—**Mr. Beatty:**

Since March 1, 1980, were requests made to American authorities by the government for the interception of mail in the United States and, if so, how many and, in each case (a) what was the reason (b) by whom was it made (c) what was the response?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Yes, on one occasion. A request was made by the Drug Enforcement Branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on August 31, 1981. The request arose from a joint investigation with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency concerning the importation of illicit drugs into the United States and Canada. The interception involved a parcel being sent through the mail to the United States which was believed to contain heroin. The American agency has assumed responsibility for that aspect of the inves-

tigation and is pursuing the matter under their law. The investigation is still under way.

CARGO TONNAGE OF NEWFOUNDLAND STEAMSHIPS LTD.

Question No. 3,020—**Mr. Crosby:**

1. What was the total amount of cargo tonnage moved by Newfoundland Steamships Ltd. between the port of Montreal and (a) Corner Brook (b) St. John's in (i) 1978 (ii) 1979 (iii) 1980?

2. What was the amount of direct water subsidy applied to the tonnage in part 1 in (a) 1978 (b) 1979 (c) 1980?

3. What commodities, by tonnage and unit value and classified by Statistics Canada SIC codes, were shipped by the company between Montreal and (a) Corner Brook (b) St. John's in (i) 1978 (ii) 1979 (iii) 1980?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. The total amount of general freight moved by Newfoundland Steamships Ltd. between the port of Montreal and Newfoundland was:

(a) 1978—246,535 tons

(b) 1979—257,657 tons

(c) 1980—260,560 tons

Owing to competitive reasons, the amount of cargo shipped by Newfoundland Steamships Ltd. to St. John's and Corner Brook is considered confidential company information.

2. The amount of subsidy payable to Newfoundland Steamships was:

(a) 1978—\$3,855,809.12

(b) 1979—\$4,029,749.68

(c) 1980—\$4,075,163.23

3. Commodities, by tonnage, unit value and classified by SIC numbers is considered confidential company information. In any event, this form of information is unavailable from departmental files.

ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Question No. 3,446—**Mr. Roy:**

1. Since the Assisted Home Ownership Program (AHOP) was established, how many houses were bought under the program in (a) the city of Laval (b) Quebec (c) Ontario and what was the total cost in each case?

2. For the same period (a) how many houses were taken back by the government (b) how many home owners (i) signed waiver documents (ii) gave up their housing unit to the mortgage holder (iii) abandoned their investment and what was the total value in each case?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): I am advised by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as follows:

1. (a), (b) and (c) See table below.

2. (a) Between 1975 and December 31, 1981, the total number of AHOP units acquired under the Mortgage Insurance Fund in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario was, 1,836 units and 8,581 units, respectively.