

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Wednesday, the 28th Day of June 1972

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

[Covering period 7-21 June inclusive]

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Transferred on date shown

Motu River Hydro-electric Project

1. Mr BRUCE BARCLAY (Christchurch Central) asked the Minister of Electricity, Is it still proposed that work commence on the Motu River hydro-electric plans early in 1973, as is stated in the *Opotiki News* of 13 August 1971, and is it still likely to take 8 years to complete?

Hon. L. W. GANDAR (Minister of Electricity) replied, Following the publication of the newspaper article on 13 August several local organisations were concerned to know what the position was. The then Minister of Electricity said at the time that much more study had still to be done on the timing of the scheme and its co-ordination with other power developments elsewhere, and that the Government would be guided by the Power Planning Committee before coming to any decision. This is still the situation and I expect there will be some statement by the committee in its 1972 report which I have not yet seen but which will be tabled in the House in the near future.

(14/6/72)

Air Force Flying Hours

2. Squadron Leader DRAYTON (St. Albans) asked the Minister of Defence, What were the achieved flying hours for the RNZAF for the year ended 31 March 1972 expressed as a percentage of the planned flying hours for that year, and what are those achieved flying hours expressed as a percentage of achieved flying hours for the years ended 31 March 1971; 31 March 1970; 31 March 1969; 31 March 1968; 31 March 1967; 31 March 1966; and 31 March 1965?

Hon. A. McCREADY (Minister of Defence) replied, In the year ended 1972 the RNZAF achieved 96 percent of its planned flying task of 41,414 flying hours. The number of hours achieved in

1971-72, expressed as a percentage of hours achieved in previous years, is as follows:

Year Ended 31 March	Percentage	Hours Achieved
1971	101	39,141
1970	102	38,770
1969	106	37,316
1968	93	42,675
1967	93	42,462
1966	103	38,252
1965	103	38,246

In other words, the hours flown by the RNZAF last year exceeded those flown in all but 2 of the previous 7 years.

(14/6/72)

Hawke's Bay Technical Institute

3. Mr CHRISTIE (Napier) asked the Minister of Education, What progress has been made in the (a) planning; (b) financial allocations; (c) siting; and (d) building of the proposed Hawke's Bay Technical Institute and are developments up to schedule?

Hon. H. L. PICKERING (Minister of Education) replied, (a) Sketch plans have been completed and working drawings are being prepared; (b) provision has been made in the 1972-77 building programme with expenditure to commence in 1972-73; (c) the transfer of a site from the University of Hawke's Bay Trust Board to the Crown for the proposed institute was completed in late 1970; (d) it is confidently expected that tenders for the workshop block will be called in August of this year. Contracts for the remaining buildings required for the proposed polytechnic will be let progressively and the whole complex is expected to be completed for use at the beginning of 1975. Developments are up to schedule.

(14/6/72)

Picton Railway Station

4. Mr ROWLING (Buller) asked the Minister of Railways, In view of the fact that working conditions inside the present Picton Railway Station are clearly sub-

Agricultural Products—GATT Conditions

64. Mr V. S. YOUNG (Egmont) asked the Minister of Overseas Trade, What initiative is being taken by New Zealand in GATT to review conditions in international trade in agricultural products?

Hon. B. E. TALBOYS (Minister of Overseas Trade)—The major international trade initiative currently being explored by New Zealand in the context of GATT arose from the Joint Declarations on International Economic Relations promulgated by the United States, the European Economic Community, and Japan in February of this year. The joint declarations established the necessary degree of international accord to enable further negotiations on trade in agricultural commodities to take place.

(21/6/72)

Chatham Islands—Resident Commissioner

65. Mr McGUIGAN (Lyttelton) asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, Is it

correct that the position of resident commissioner in the Chatham Islands is to be dispensed with from September 1972; if so, what is the proposed alternative; is an administrative officer to be appointed and based in Waitangi; and, if so, what will his duties be?

Hon. D. A. HIGHET (Minister of Internal Affairs)—The economic report on the Chatham Islands recommends that the position of resident commissioner on the islands should be dispensed with, and I support this view. If the county council will accept the SAFE agency I see no need for an administrative officer attached to the Department of Internal Affairs to be stationed on the islands. The present proposals are that a suitable departmental officer should be based in Wellington to initiate, co-ordinate, and follow up developments on the Chatham Islands.

(21/6/72)