

Questions

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):

1. At the present time the Department of the Secretary of State has a public relations staff of four information officers.

2. Prior to 1965, there was no one employed in the public relations field within the Department of the Secretary of State. The total cost for the years 1965-1968 inclusive is as follows: 1965, \$3,971; 1966, \$26,787; 1967, \$47,784; 1968, \$34,690.

CONTEMPLATED ABOLITION OF INDIAN ACT

Question No. 2,260—**Mr. Yewchuk:**

Is the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development contemplating the abolition of the Indian Act and, if so, has he reached any decision regarding the fate of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): A statement and the policy was tabled in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 25, 1969.

BOIS-FRANCS, QUE., POST OFFICE
MAINTENANCE

Question No. 2,270—**Mr. Rondeau:**

1. Who provides the cleaning and maintenance products for the post offices of the Bois-Francs area in the Eastern Townships and in Montreal?

2. Who purchases these products for the Post Office Department?

3. Are purchases made for a whole area or for each post office separately?

[Translation]

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): 1. The Department of Public Works.

2. The Department of Supply and Services.

3. Purchases are made in bulk for the whole area and charged to the individual post office when issued.

[English]

PLANS FOR STORED WHEAT SALES

Question No. 2,282—**Mr. Yewchuk:**

1. Has the government any announcement to make regarding how it plans to market the 800,000,000 bushels of wheat which it is estimated will be lying unsold in the granary across the country by July 31, the end of the present crop year?

2. Has the government considered any form of aid to these farmers, many of whom are finding it difficult to finance this year's crop?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Industry,

[Mr. Robinson.]

Trade and Commerce and Agriculture as follows: 1. There are very large stocks of wheat in the world and trade has declined. Many countries are experiencing difficulties in exporting wheat and there can be no definitive announcement at this time concerning the marketing of the existing stocks of Canadian wheat. The government, the Canadian Wheat Board and the private grain trade continue to make every effort to market Canadian wheat.

2. The government has introduced a number of measures to assist western farmers and is giving consideration to longer term solutions to these problems.

INVESTMENT OF INDIAN BAND FUNDS

Question No. 2,340—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

1. In what manner are Indian Band Funds invested or otherwise dealt with?

2. What interest rate is paid on such funds?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Indian Band Funds are not invested but are held in Consolidated Revenue. These funds may be used for the benefit of the band in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Act and with the consent of the Band Council concerned.

2. The rate of interest paid on approximately \$31 million is 5 per cent. The rate of interest on the balance, about \$1 million, is 6 per cent.

COST SHARING PROJECTS FOR INDIANS

Question No. 2,367—**Mr. Brewin:**

1. Has the federal government refused to proceed with several cost-sharing projects for the benefit of Indians in Ontario despite an agreement to do so in 1966 and, if not, has the attention of the government been drawn to the statement to that effect made by the Prime Minister of Ontario in the Legislature?

2. When did the Federal-Provincial Committee on Indian Affairs last meet (a) who is responsible for calling such meetings (b) if the meetings have not been called for a year, what is the reason?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Under the terms of the Community Development Agreement, signed in 1966, Canada agreed to share in the cost of projects for Indians approved by the Federal-Provincial Coordinating Committee composed of officials of both the Ontario and federal governments. The federal government has not refused to proceed with any projects approved by this