

Questions

breeds of bulls through artificial insemination. There are approximately 200 cows in each of the three herds. These cattle are privately owned and under the terms of the contract the department is required to compensate the owner for losses in excess of those considered to be normal and for extra labour involved in the breeding program.

2. No experimental conclusions have been reached at this early date in the projects. Experiments conducted under contractual arrangements with farmers for the cross-breeding of large numbers of cattle are considered to be economical. However, such arrangements will need to be continued for some time to come before definite conclusions can be reached.

3. The contract with Mr. G. D. Brown does not provide for refund to the government of any money from sales of calves and feeders but provides for the equal sharing of any milk revenue in excess of \$8,450 in any contract year.

*RURAL MAIL CONTRACT, PRINCE
EDWARD COUNTY, ONT.

Question No. 2,022—**Mr. Alkenbrack:**

What were the names of the various tenderers and the amounts of each tender for the recent letting of a mail contract for R.R. No. 1 Cherry Valley, Ontario, in Prince Edward County in the constituency of Prince Edward-Lennox?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):

Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 2,022 is as follows: Mrs. Alida Mae Wiggins, Cherry Valley, \$1,560; Mr. Gordon L. Cummings, R.R. No. 1, Cherry Valley, \$1,650; Mr. David Morley Leavitt, Cherry Valley, \$1,695 and Mr. Samuel Armstrong, Cherry Valley, \$1,744.70.

[*English*]

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRENCH SPEAKING
COMMONWEALTH

Question No. 2,026—**Mr. Choquette:**

What measure does the government intend to take in order to encourage the establishment of a French speaking commonwealth, in accordance with the idea put forward by Mr. Léopold Sedar Senghor, President of the Senegalese republic?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The concept of 'la Francophonie' is still at a formative stage at this

[Mr. Greene.]

time. The recent visits to Canada by President Senghor of Senegal and by the French foreign minister have provided the government with an opportunity for a useful preliminary exchange of views on this subject. While no definite proposals have yet been submitted, the Canadian government fully supports the idea of developing closer links and more exchanges, particularly in the cultural and related fields, with those countries which, like Canada, share the heritage of the French language and culture.

It is the policy of the Canadian government to give full expression, in its international relations, to the bilingual and bicultural character of our country. The development of our ties with the francophone countries, which we have pursued vigorously over the last few years, represents a new and valuable dimension of Canadian diplomacy. We wish to participate actively in any effort to find an effective framework for further cooperation among francophone states.

I accordingly informed our distinguished visitors that Canada would give favourable consideration to any proposal intended to provide a framework for closer contacts and more exchanges among the French speaking countries. At the same time account would of course have to be taken of the particular structure and needs of all those countries like Canada which are interested in this idea. The Canadian government is studying this matter and will pursue it actively in consultation with other interested governments.

So far as the form of Canadian participation is concerned, I can assure the house that Canada's eventual participation will be predicated on the two basic principles which have consistently guided our actions in this field in the past: that the government of Canada represents all of Canada on the international plane and that we are anxious to use our powers in the foreign affairs field to promote and further the interests of all Canadians including, of course, those relating to our unique French speaking heritage.

The Canadian government is accordingly anxious to enlist the support and active participation of interested provinces and the province of Quebec in particular, in such an endeavour. We are willing and anxious to discuss with the interested provinces the best way in which provincial participation can be achieved and the exact form it may take within the context of the policy I have just stated.