

Questions

SALE OF GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES

Question No. 725—Mr. Bell (Carleton):

1. Has the government ceased the sale of annuities issued pursuant to the Government Annuities Act?

2. If so (a) as of what date (b) for what reasons?

3. (a) When was this annuity service first instituted (b) what was its original purpose or objective (c) does the government consider that this original purpose or objective has now been otherwise achieved and, if so, why?

4. As of March 31, 1967 (a) what was the number of (i) individual contracts (ii) group contracts, issued and (b) in each instance of (i) and (ii) above, what was the total cumulative value of such contracts in force as of the said date?

5. Has there been at any time any net cost to the consolidated revenue fund in the operation of this annuity service and, if so, in what years and in what amounts, if any?

6. During each of the last five fiscal years, has there been any transfer (a) of surplus (b) of unclaimed annuities, to the consolidated revenue fund and, if so, in what amounts for each such year?

7. What are the intentions of the government with respect to contracts now in force?

8. How many persons are now employed in the administration of this service?

9. What are the intentions of the government with respect to the future of such persons so employed?

Mr. B. S. Mackasey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): 1. No, but salesmen will no longer be employed to solicit business.

2. Not applicable.

3. (a) September, 1908. (b) To encourage thrift and saving for old age. (c) Yes. Facilities for personal saving for old age are more numerous now than they were in 1908. There are also now in existence the old age security program and the Canada Pension Plan.

4. (a) (i) 155,150 (ii) 1,416 (b) Total value at March 31, 1967 was \$1,324,518,806 of which approximately \$644,000,000 arises from group contracts. Separate accounts for individual and group annuities are not kept.

5. Yes. Total net cost to March 31, 1967 is \$26.3 million.

6. (a) and (b):

Fiscal year ended March 31	Surplus transferred to consolidated revenue fund	Unclaimed annuities transferred
1963	\$ 417,000	\$ 43,000
1964	878,000	33,000
1965	695,000	52,000
1966	1,501,000	98,000
1967	129,000	63,000

[Mr. Benson.]

7. All existing contracts continue unchanged.

8. Head office establishment, 145. Sales offices, 52.

9. The decision to discontinue promotion of the sale of annuities will have little effect on the head office staff. The occupants of any head office positions which may become redundant can be absorbed elsewhere in the department.

Personnel in the sales offices are not public servants. Some will become public servants to staff seven regional service offices; some will be pensioned; and a few will have to seek other employment. Severance pay will be given to persons whose employment is terminated.

PENSIONS OF TEACHERS IN EXTERNAL AID PROGRAM

Question No. 733—Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):

Will the government adopt a policy of making a contribution to the pensions of teachers working in the government's external aid program?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Teachers serving overseas under the auspices of the external aid office are normally employed under direct contract with the government of Canada. In addition to regular salaries, teachers are paid an overseas allowance which is intended to be sufficiently generous to enable them to continue contributions to their regular superannuation plans in Canada.

Almost invariably teachers are on leaves of absence from their school boards while serving on assignments overseas and their pension rights are maintained.

*MEETINGS TO CONSIDER McIVOR COMMISSION REPORT

Question No. 739—Mr. Stefanson:

1. Has the Minister of Fisheries arranged a meeting with representatives from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and the Northwest Territories to discuss the other aspects of the recommendations made by the McIvor commission to determine which should be implemented besides the recommendation of establishing a fresh water fish marketing board?

2. If so, has such a meeting taken place, who was in attendance and what recommendations of the McIvor report will be implemented?

Mr. Richard Cashin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of this question