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IMPORTATION OF EGGS FROM U.S.A.

Question No. 3,321—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. To the knowledge of the government, are hundreds of cases of eggs coming into the Ottawa area each month from the state of Minnesota in the United States for sale to Ottawa area hospitals as well as certain other institutions and, if so (a) for what reason do eggs have to be imported from Minnesota when there has been a surplus of eggs in Canada in recent years (b) was this brought about by any regulations of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency or by any other actions of the government?

2. Are egg distributors required to apply for import permits when surplus eggs are available in the immediate area and, if so, for what reason?

3. What is the retail cost in Canadian funds for a dozen eggs imported in this fashion at the time (a) this question is asked (b) the answer to this question is prepared?

4. Does the government consider this to be a ridiculous situation and, if so, will it take steps to remedy it?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): 1. Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a certain traditional level of imports are allowed. This is established at .675 percent of last year's level of production. Egg imports are coming into Canada all year round. Traditionally, the volume rises with the increase in demand at Easter and Christmas. Supplementary permits will be issued to import more than the traditional amounts when it can be demonstrated that a Canadian supply is not available. The traditional import levels are about 200,000 boxes of 15 dozen with supplementaries raising this to 700,000 boxes during years of balanced supply. This year these imports are much lower, just over 200,000 boxes of 15 dozen to the end of October, 1981, which is about the minimum under GATT. Once the eggs have been received by the importer they lose visibility with respect to where they are marketed through the wholesale and retail chain. It is known, however, that some imported eggs are on sale in the Ottawa area.

2. No.

3. The retail costs associated with handling and processing eggs through the private sector wholesale-retail trade is not known. These areas of cost are not monitored under the supply management program for eggs.

4. The level of imports of eggs into Canada this year has been kept to the bare minimum under the GATT. No special action is required or possible by the government.

LANSDOWNE PORT OF ENTRY

Question No. 3,322—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did Mr. Percy Jodoin, Director of Immigration at the port of Lansdowne, Ontario, retire in September, 1981 or thereabouts and, if so (a) is his position now vacant (b) will the position be filled and, if so, on what date?

2. Is the government considering placing immigration at the port of Lansdowne under one of the adjacent ports at Prescott, Ontario or at Kingston, Ontario and, if so, what would be the reasons for choosing (a) Prescott (b) Kingston?

3. (a) Is the government aware that the port falls within the united counties of Leeds and Grenville, a geographically historical district (b) would placing the port under Kingston, which is far outside the boundaries of Leeds-Grenville, mean the same level of service could not be provided as in the past?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. Yes. Mr. Percy Jodoin, manager of the Canada Immigration Centre at Lansdowne retired in September, 1981.

(a) Yes.

(b) As part of its operational planning for 1982-83 and beyond, Ontario region is presently examining the organizational configuration of the Ottawa district in which the Lansdowne port of entry is located. A final recommendation has not yet been formulated.

2. See 1 (b) above.

3. (a) Yes.

(b) No; service to the public is always a prime consideration in resource allocation and operational planning.

COSTS OF DRUGS

Question No. 3,324—**Mr. Herbert:**

Was a study made of possible cost savings to the public resulting from the use of generic drugs and, if so, was the report made public?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Yes, a study was done by the Economic Council of Canada and published in May, 1981 as a technical report. The study is entitled: "Regulating the Price of Prescription Drugs in Canada: Compulsory Licensing, Product Selection, and Government Reimbursement Programmes", by Paul K. Gorecki.

PAYMENTS UNDER MUNICIPAL GRANTS ACT

Question No. 3,332—**Mr. Herbert:**

In each of the past five years, by province, what amount was paid under the Municipal Grants Act?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):