

Questions

2. The initial measurements in Canada were largely restricted to smoke haze or soiling index but during the 1960's other contaminants such as dust-fall, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates have also been measured routinely in sample cities. At a small number of locations contaminants such as nitrogen oxides, oxidants and carbon monoxide have been measured on a non-routine basis.

3. During recent years more than 10,000 pollution readings per month have been received into the central recording section of the Department of National Health and Welfare. These are available for perusal but have not been reduced for convenient publication as yet. Generally, pollution levels in Canadian cities are equivalent to their counterparts in the United States.

*POLLUTION—NATIONAL POLICY

Question No. 1,860—**Mr. Haidasz:**

Does the federal government intend to announce during the present Session of Parliament a national policy to control environmental pollution?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the government is actively studying the entire question of environmental pollution control with a view to developing more effective national policies and programs to deal with water, air and soil pollution and their various interrelationships. These matters are being examined interdepartmentally and, although the government does not expect to be in a position to make a statement during the present session of parliament, it will do so as soon as possible. The government does expect to introduce the Canada water bill during the present session.

NEW PASSPORT OFFICES

Question No. 1,866—**Mr. Rodrigue:**

Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs plan to open new passport offices in 1969?

[Translation]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): On January 22, 1969, the Secretary of State for External Affairs tabled a departmental press release announcing changes in passport requirements which stated, in part, that it is hoped that branch passport offices will be established in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver in approximately twelve months time as soon as staff resources permit. It is planned that a small office will be opened in the Maritimes at a later date.

[Mr. Munro.]

To date there has been no change in the departmental time-table for the opening of the branch offices.

[English]

BOX 99

Question No. 1,876—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

1. How many representations have been made to Box 99 since its inception?

2. How many of these representations have been dealt with satisfactorily?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): 1. 6,085 representations to Box 99 to March 31, 1969. (Complaints and Enquiries).

2. 52 per cent.

TENDERS FOR INDIAN HEALTH STUDY

Question No. 1,885—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

1. Was there a competitive tender for a consultant study on Indian health services announced earlier this year by the Department of National Health and Welfare and, if not, for what reason?

2. What is the total estimated cost of this study?

3. When are the results of this study expected to be completed?

4. Will the study be tabled in the House of Commons?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. Yes, from four firms.

2. \$185,000.

3. The consultant's report is to be completed by August 31/69.

4. No.

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATER SAMPLES

Question No. 1,892—**Mr. Godin:**

1. Did the Department of National Health and Welfare take water samples from the St. Lawrence River in the summers of 1967 and 1968?

2. If so, did the analysis of this water reveal that there was a danger for bathers in (a) Tadoussac (b) Quebec City (c) Trois-Rivières (d) Montreal?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. The Department of National Health and Welfare has carried out water quality studies on the international section of the St. Lawrence River (from Kingston, Ontario, to Cornwall, Ontario), each summer since 1965. These studies were conducted under the aegis of a current reference to the International Joint Commission on Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River.