

Questions

BILINGUALISM IN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POSITION OF GILLES BERGERON

Question No. 2,072—Mr. Coates:

1. What position does Gilles Bergeron hold in the Department of Communications, how long has he been associated with the Public Service of Canada, how long has he been in his present position, what are his qualifications and what is his present salary?

2. Is Mr. Bergeron bilingual, is work in his Department carried out in a bilingual manner and has he, at any time, refused to accept interdepartmental communications in the English language?

3. What facilities are available in the Department of Communications for the translation of Departmental business into English and French, and what is the annual cost of securing translation from English to French by private contractors outside the government service?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Communications and by the Department of the Secretary of State as follows: 1. Mr. Bergeron holds the position of Assistant Deputy Minister (Operations) in the Department of Communications. His association with the Public Service dates from 1967 and he assumed his present position on March 10, 1969. Mr. Bergeron was Associate Commissioner, Centennial Commission (Secretary of State) in 1967 and Manager, Project Office for Domestic Satellite Communication Systems (Privy Council) in 1968. From 1963-66 he served as Assistant Deputy Minister in the Quebec Department of Education. Previously his experience was as an Administrative Consultant with the Quebec Government. He holds a Bachelors of Arts, University of Paris, Bachelor of Applied Science, University of Montreal and Master of Applied Science, University of Toronto. He is paid a salary in the range of SX 3, \$23,000 to \$29,000.

2. Mr. Bergeron is bilingual. Work in his department is carried out in a bilingual manner, and he has never refused to accept interdepartmental communications in the English language.

3. The Department of Communications is served by the Translation Bureau, Department of the Secretary of State, through a Translation Division comprised of three translators and one secretary working with the Department. For the fiscal year April 1, 1969 to March 31, 1970, the Translation Bureau secured translations from English to French for the Department of Communications from free-lance translators outside the Government service at a total cost of \$1,361.90.

[Mr. Jerome.]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION—MRS. GILLES BERGERON

Question No. 2,073—Mr. Coates:

Is Mrs. Gilles Bergeron an employee of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and, if so, what are her qualifications for the position she holds and what is her annual salary?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission as follows: Mrs. Gilles Bergeron is not an employee of the CRTC. She is engaged on contract four days a week to work on a temporary assignment. Mrs. Bergeron holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Paris, a Bachelor of Psychology degree from the University of Montreal and has ten years' experience in the audio-visual field. Mrs. Bergeron is paid \$60 a day.

[English]

INTEREST INCOME LOST THROUGH HOLDING PART OF FOREIGN RESERVES IN GOLD

Question No. 2,074—Mr. Kaplan:

How much interest income has the government lost from January 1, 1970 to date through holding part of its foreign reserves in gold, considering the investment of such part at the average yield upon the balance of the reserves?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Gold is held in the Exchange Fund Account to be available to purchase U.S. dollars should they be needed for intervention in the foreign currency market to protect the Canadian dollar. Because this gold earns no interest, it has been a matter of policy only to hold a certain proportion of Canada's foreign exchange reserves in this form.

The average yield of the Exchange Fund Account's investment portfolio—excluding gold and the obligations of the IMF—for the year 1969 was 5.85 per cent. The exact figure for the first quarter of 1970 is not yet available. Applied to the gold holdings as of 31 May 1970, interest income foregone during 1970, at the yield applicable in 1969 on other assets, could be said to have approximated \$21 million.

USE OF COMPUTER IN DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Question No. 2,075—Mr. Robinson:

1. Does the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs have the use of a computer in its operations and, if so, to what extent is it utilized?