

## Order Paper Questions

**Miss Campbell:** 1. (a) and (b) Methadone has been in use for many years as a potent narcotic analgesic and as such is subject to the controls that apply to all narcotic drugs. Since 1963, interest has centered around the controlled use of methadone as a treatment aid in programs aimed at social and economic rehabilitation of heroin addicts. As a consequence, consumption of the drug increased considerably and reports of misuse and abuse of methadone came to the attention of the Department of Health and Welfare. In view of the serious concern over this development, a Special Joint Committee of the Department's former Food and Drug Directorate and the Canadian Medical Association was established in 1970 with the purpose of reviewing the use of methadone in the treatment of narcotic addiction. As a result of the recommendations of this Committee and those made by other experts in this area, new regulations were implemented on June 1, 1972 bringing methadone under even more strict controls and permitting its use only by practitioners specially authorized for that purpose. These regulations have resulted in a marked decrease of consumption of this drug and brought its use under proper control.

2. (a) Number of clinics with protocols allowing the use of methadone for the management of narcotic addiction: 33. (b) British Columbia, 14; Alberta, 2; Saskatchewan, 2; Manitoba, 2; Ontario, 5; Quebec, 7; Nova Scotia, 1.

3. Narcotic addicts treated with methadone: October and November, 1974: British Columbia, 837; Alberta, 45; Saskatchewan, 34; Manitoba, 51; Ontario, 201; Quebec, 43; Nova Scotia, 1. Information on ages of narcotic addicts treated with methadone is not available.

4. Canadian imports of methadone: 1966, 3.29 Kg; 1967, 5.71 Kg; 1968, 10.4 Kg; 1969, 13.4 Kg; 1970, 30.19 Kg; 1971, 40.59 Kg; 1972, 40.680 Kg; 1973, 0.001 Kg; 1974, 22.5 Kg. These numbers indicate a fall in consumption after the introduction of additional controls in 1972 and the importation of almost no drug in 1973 is due to the consumption of leftover stock from the previous year.

5. There is a limited amount of literature on the effects of methadone and the results of treatment programs for narcotic addicts which include the use of methadone. The report of The Special Joint Committee of the Department of National Health and Welfare—Canadian Medical Association which was set up to study the use of methadone in the treatment of narcotic addiction was published in 1971. The LeDain Commission of Inquiry Into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs has also reviewed this matter. The Health Protection Branch is continuing to assess this modality of treatment.

## CEMA

**Question No. 1,672—Mr. Mazankowski:**

1. How many firms and/or persons have been engaged in a legal, consulting and advisory capacity since the inception of CEMA?

2. (a) What are the names of the firms and/or persons (b) how much money was paid to each firm and/or person for each year up to and including December, 1974?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Since CEMA operations are not funded by government, it is considered that the information requested is confidential to CEMA.

[Mr. Speaker.]

## INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE—PUBLIC SERVANTS WORKING IN CONTINENTAL REGIONS

**Question No. 1,758—Mr. Herbert:**

In the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce for the month of April 1975, what is the budgeted number of public servants to work in the continental regions of (a) North America excluding Canada (b) South America (c) Europe (d) Asia (e) Australasia?

**Mr. Gaston Clermont (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** (a) North America (excluding Canada) 104, (b) South America 34, (c) Europe 91, (d) Asia 26, (e) Australasia 21.

## EYE CARE FOR NATIVE POPULATION OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Question No. 1,766—Mr. Firth:**

Is there, at this time, a government arrangement whereby optometrists are hired to provide eye care to the Native population of the Northwest Territories and (a) if not, is the government planning on instituting such a medical service (b) if so, when did eye care for Natives become available?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No. (a) No. (b) The government, through the Department of National Health and Welfare, believes that the simple checking of visual acuity and the prescription of corrective lenses is not an adequate service to the native people. Instead, service is provided in three zones (Northwest Territories) by contract through the universities with consultant ophthalmologists who regularly visit the settlements to provide both diagnostic and refractive eye care. For example, in the MacKenzie zone, ophthalmic services are provided under the supervision of a qualified ophthalmologist who is resident in Yellowknife. The alternative suggested of utilising optometrists to do all the necessary refractions, would leave uncovered the other numerically much smaller but potentially much more serious group with actual eye pathology who would then all have to be evacuated to the south for an ophthalmologic opinion. This would at one time increase the cost and defeat the aims of National Health and Welfare to provide care and diagnostic services to the greatest extent possible in the home community.

## PURPOSE OF 1975 POST OFFICE CALENDAR

**Question No. 1,777—Mr. Towers:**

1. For what purpose is the Post Office calendar published each year?

2. Since the information printed on the reverse pages is posted in all post offices and elsewhere, is advertising the basic reason for publishing the calendar and, if not, for what reason is it published?

3. For what reason was a calendar printed this year when there is supposed to be a cut-back in government spending?

4. (a) On what basis is the calendar distributed (b) if on request only, how are taxpayers informed of its availability?

5. (a) On the 1974 and 1975 calendars, on whose authority was Victoria Day replaced by Fête de Dollard in the French version (b) what has Dollard to do with Victoria Day which was proclaimed by Parliament as a statutory holiday (c) for what reason was not the same rule applied on June 24 where the calendar shows St. Jean Baptiste Day without an English replacement?

6. For what reason was July 1 left blank instead of showing its correct name Dominion Day?