

Order Paper Questions

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,451, 2,716 and 2,797.

[Text]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Question No. 2,451—Mr. Neil:

1. What are the qualifications for male and female applicants to be accepted as recruits with the RCMP?
2. Is there a quota for Anglophone, Francophone and bilingual recruits and, if so, what is the ratio?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): 1. The qualifications for male and female applicants to be accepted by the Force are as follows: Canadian citizen; possession of valid driver's licence; successful completion of Grade 12 (or equivalent); medically fit; good character; speak, write, read and comprehend English or French; 19 years of age.

In order to be successful in their application, candidates must possess the required attributes or qualities that are considered essential for a career as a peace officer. These are based on a weighted selection standard which provides a means of assessing the qualities of an applicant in a manner which allows the applicant to be graded from most suitable to not acceptable. All applicants who are successful in meeting the established weighted selection standard are placed on a national waiting list. Procedural and engagement preferences are established on a yearly basis in line with the Force's specific needs.

2. The highest priority/preference in 1981/82 will be offered to: (a) bilingual candidates (this includes the language training candidates who possess a useful knowledge of both official languages), (b) female candidates, and (c) native candidates. This policy does not imply, nor is it meant to imply that bilingualism is a prerequisite for entry into the Force. Our national waiting list is maintained in a manner which identifies preferred candidates and these individuals are offered preference for their additional qualifications.

The current participation in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of those whose first official language is French, is of the order of 13.3 per cent, well below the 29.4 per cent representation found in the Canadian population as a whole. By combining a ratio approximating that of both official language communities in Canada for the federally developed Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that of both official language communities in the contracting provinces and municipalities for the provincially funded Royal Canadian Mounted Police, we arrived at the reasonable first stage objective of 20.8 per cent. The Force hopes to attain this objective expeditiously. This figure represents the minimum needed if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is to conform with the Official Languages Act. As the number of preferred candidates on the

national waiting list is relatively low, in comparison to the large number of candidates available, the proportion of unilingual recruits selected is likely to remain high.

CANADIAN POLICE INFORMATION CENTRE COMPUTER

Question No. 2,716—Mr. Beatty:

1. With respect to the Canadian Police Information Centre computer (a) on what date were criminal record synopses first put on line to all terminals (b) how many synopses are currently available and how many are expected to be added each month (c) what sort of information about an individual is kept in the synopses?
2. Are individuals whose records are placed in CPIC's data bank notified of the action and, if so, what procedures are available to them to challenge the validity of the synopses?
3. Does CPIC have plans to expand the categories of data in the data bank and, if so, what are they?
4. In regard to the centre, what regulations or agreements exist with respect to the (a) protection of an individual's privacy (b) type of information that may be entered into the data bank (c) categories of individuals and organizations to whom information contained in the data bank may be given?
5. Since the creation of the CPIC, how many complaints were received of arrests arising from misinformation in the data bank?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): 1. (a) May 1, 1974.

(b) At this time there are 1,608,661 synopses available with an average of 10,000 added each month. An average of 800 are removed from the system making net average monthly gain of 9,200 entries.

(c) Criminal record synopsis file: Records entered in this file are based on information contained on criminal fingerprint forms filed by the identification services of the RCMP.

Each criminal record synopsis output by the system has a statement "caution this is not a criminal record". If there are no convictions registered for the individual in the criminal record file maintained by identification services, this fact will be identified by a statement in each applicable output record "no convictions". If the record contains juvenile entries, the printout also shows "caution—this response contains juvenile charges".

The data output from the criminal record synopsis file is broken down into four information areas as follows:

(1) The record file number and fingerprint classification of the individual and tombstone data respecting the file itself. Cautionary codes indicating the FPS file contains documentation that:

- (a) The subject has been charged with a crime of violence.
- (b) The subject has escaped, or attempted to escape from custody.
- (c) The subject has a history of mental instability.
- (d) The subject has attempted suicide.

(2) The latest available description of the individual, and the date the description was recorded.

(3) (a) The individual's current status in the judicial system.