

Starred Questions

POLITICAL ACTIVITY DIRECTIVE TO MAIL CONTRACTORS

Question No. 13—Mr. Herridge:

1. Has a circular been issued to all mail contractors in Canada warning them to refrain from participation in political activity, both federal and provincial?

2. If so: (a) what information did this directive contain? (b) what was the reason for this limitation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of mail contractors, who are not civil servants and who, in many cases, are rendering only part-time service to the Post Office Department?

3. Has the same warning been issued to casual and part-time employees engaged for the Christmas or other rush seasons?

4. Has any similar circular been issued to mail contractors in the past?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): The answer to this question is as follows:

1. Standing instructions were issued in 1957 and are renewed before every federal or provincial election.

2. (a) Mail contractors are to refrain from participation in political activity, both federal and provincial, while actually performing mail service work. The document was tabled on July 15, 1960.

(b) The implications of this so-called question are completely false and untrue. Section 39 of standing orders clearly indicates that such a question is out of order, and does not permit an appropriate answer.

3. General instructions have been issued on this subject and they apply to part-time and casual employees. The application of these instructions is in accord with section 55 of the Civil Service Act, which forbids persons employed in the civil service from engaging in partisan work in connection with any election for the House of Commons, the legislature of a province, or the council of the Yukon Territory or the Northwest Territories. It has not been considered necessary to bring them directly to the attention of casuals because they are employed for short periods.

4. No.

REDUCTION IN VETERANS SMALL HOLDING REQUIREMENT

Question No. 14—Mr. Herridge:

1. What representations, if any, from organizations and individuals have been received by the government since June, 1957, urging the reduction of the acreage requirement under the small holding section of the Veterans' Land Act to a half acre?

2. What consideration has been given to this serious and urgent problem to many veterans in Canada?

3. What decision, if any, has been reached by the government to date?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): If the hon. member will accept from me later a list of the organizations and individuals who have written about this

matter, I could proceed to answer parts 2 and 3 of the question. The hon. member introduced this as an addition following his question of last week, and it has resulted in the necessity of searching the files for correspondence.

I can answer question No. 2 by saying that very careful consideration is being given to this problem, and I have been making inquiries since hearing from the hon. member with regard to this matter.

The answer to the third part of the question is that no decision has been reached to date.

MAPLE SYRUP PURCHASES FOR ARMED FORCES

Question No. 15—Mr. Roberge:

1. Has the federal government purchased maple syrup for the use of the Canadian forces, (a) in the current year; (b) in 1961?

2. If so, what quantity was bought for each year?

3. Were public tenders invited, and what were the specifications as to quality?

4. If so, on what dates and through what publicity media?

5. If not by publicity media, by what means were possible sellers contacted?

6. What are the names and addresses of those who submitted tenders and the respective amounts of their tenders?

7. From whom was the syrup purchased in each case?

8. Was it produced by farmers, producers' co-operatives or by manufacturers?

9. In each case, is the syrup in question pure or is it manufactured from other ingredients than maple sap?

10. If this maple syrup is not made from maple sap, what proportion of maple sap does it contain?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): As the answer to this question is lengthy, I wonder if the house would have any objection to it being printed in *Hansard*?

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the answer be taken as read and printed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's note: The answer referred to above is as follows:]

1. (a) Yes. (b) Yes.

2. 1959-60, 13,705 gallons avoirdupois. 1960-61, 16,623 gallons avoirdupois.

3. (a) Yes. (b) 1959-60—1960-61—CGSB specification 32-GP-207 dated December 31, 1949. 1959-60—Canada light grade. 1960-61—Canada medium grade.

4. 1959-60, April 24, 1959, Invitation to tender. 1960-61, May 16, 1960, Invitation to tender.

5. (See para 4).

6.

1959-60 Requirement

Firm and total amount.

United Maple Products Ltd., Granby, P.Q., \$500.00 (partial quotation).