

Order Paper Questions

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GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR TEXTBOOK, "UNDERSTANDING CANADA"

Question No. 4,424—**Mr. Gurbin:**

Did the Government, through the Academic Relations Division of the Department of External Affairs, give financial support (a) to the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (b) for the production of a textbook entitled "Understanding Canada" and, if so, in each case, what was the amount?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): The Academic Relations Division has given financial support to the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States within the conduct of its mandate to develop an informed, well disposed and sustained interest in Canada as a whole among members of foreign leadership groups in support of foreign policy objectives. No grant was given to the Association as such for the production of the textbook entitled "Understanding Canada". Over the last twelve years the Department has granted \$100,000 (U.S.A.) and \$100,000 (Canadian) to the Association to enable it to promote teaching and research about Canada in a widening circle of institutions of higher learning in the United States.

See also the replies to question No. 4,318 answered June 17, 1982 and 4,390 answered July 30, 1982.

CANADA PENSION PLAN

Question No. 4,427—**Mr. Malone:**

1. Did the Government receive a request from Mr. Leo J. Vos of Strome, Alberta for a record of his earnings and future entitlement to a Canada Pension Plan retirement pension and, if so, was this confidential information mailed to Mr. Richard C. Perrott of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia?

2. Did the Government receive a request from Mr. Richard C. Perrott of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia for a record of his earnings and future entitlement to a Canada Pension Plan retirement pension and, if so, was this confidential information mailed to Mr. Leo J. Vos of Strome, Alberta?

3. Are precautions taken to ensure that the confidential record of earnings and retirement benefit information of one Canadian citizen is not mistakenly disclosed to another Canadian and, if so, what are such precautions?

4. Were any such precautions followed in the cases of Messrs. Vos and Perrott and, if not, for what reason?

5. On how many occasions have errors occurred and how frequently do errors occur with respect to such confidential information, such that one or more Canadians are being informed of another citizen's record of earnings and retirement benefit status?

6. Is any recourse available to a citizen who has had confidential information shared with others by intention or in error and, if so, what is such recourse?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. The Canada Pension Plan Administration

received a request from Mr. Leo J. Vos of Strome, Alberta for a record of his earnings and information concerning future entitlement to a Canada Pension Plan retirement pension. A reply was prepared May 28, 1982 and apparently mailed in error to Mr. Richard C. Perrott of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia.

2. The Canada Pension Plan Administration received a request from Mr. Richard C. Perrott of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia for a record of his earnings and information concerning future entitlement to a Canada Pension Plan retirement pension. This reply was also prepared May 28, 1982 and apparently mailed in error to Mr. Leo J. Vos of Strome, Alberta.

3. Precautions are taken to ensure that the confidential record of earnings and retirement benefit information of one Canadian citizen is not mistakenly disclosed to another Canadian. In cases where a record of earnings only is requested it is automatically sent in a window type envelope which ensures that it is mailed to the intended recipients. Where additional information is required the request must be processed manually. All of the staff involved in this process are aware of the confidentiality of the information and the need for extra care in handling such information.

4. In the cases of Messrs. Vos and Perrott the precautions were followed in processing the information however, in the enveloping of the information the material for Mr. Vos was placed in the typed envelope addressed to Mr. Perrott and the information to Mr. Perrott was placed in the typed envelope addressed to Mr. Vos. Our procedures stipulate that a check is to be made to ensure the correct letter is enveloped but in this case an error was made.

5. The Canada Pension Plan Administration is aware of only two other incidents in mailing information to contributors and as a matter of record some one million records have been mailed since the beginning of 1982 alone. In addition, the procedure of sending all requests for information in window type envelopes has recently been adopted. This will provide a further measure of safety against errors in mailing information to contributors.

6. Section 107 of the Canada Pension Plan Act provides that any employee who "knowingly" contravenes the confidentiality of information on the record of earnings of a contributor is guilty of an offense punishable on summary conviction. There is of course no such recourse for human error.

CANADA POST CORPORATION ADVERTISING BUDGET

Question No. 4,434—**Mr. Gass:**

1. What is the advertising budget for the Canada Post Corporation for the fiscal year 1982-83?

2. What was the advertising budget for the Post Office Department for the fiscal year 1971-72?

Hon. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The Canada Post Corporation has informed me as follows: 1. \$2,435,000; 2. \$362,600.