

Questions

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Department of Manpower and Immigration as follows: 1. and 2. Special area designations are decided after consultation on priorities with the provincial government concerned, not by the making of representations.

3. No.

4. No.

CMHC—LOANS TO HOME OWNERS IN ISOLATED AND SPECIAL AREAS

Question No. 502—**Mr. Hopkins:**

Will the present CMHC practice of granting loans to home owners in larger towns and cities in isolated areas of Canada be expanded in 1971 to include towns and cities in special areas as designated by the government?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): In 1971, direct lending by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation under the National Housing Act will continue to be directed, as in 1970, toward increasing the volume of housing available to low and modest income families throughout Canada. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in its direct lending will also endeavour to meet the most urgent housing needs, which have usually occurred in new resource towns and in smaller cities and rural areas throughout the country, arising from an inadequate distribution of loans by the institutional lenders. It is anticipated, however, that an increased volume of lending by lending institutions will decrease lending by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in some of the smaller towns and rural areas in 1971.

PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT ACT

Question No. 511—**Mr. Skoberg:**

1. Does the Public Service Commission have complete jurisdiction in decision making in so far as the Public Service Employment Act is concerned?

2. What are the specific terms of reference of the Public Service Commission in the decision making process?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Public Service Commission as follows: 1. Yes, except where otherwise provided for under the following sections of the Public Service Employment Act: (i) The Governor in Council has full authority under sections 32(6)(a), 34(1), 38 and 44. (ii) The Governor in Council has authority under sections 35 and 39 provided a recommendation is made by the Commission. (iii) A Minister has authority to appoint his Executive Assistant and other persons required in his office under section 37(1). (iv) The Deputy Minister has authority under sections 26, 27, 28(2) and (3), and 29(1).

2. The Public Service Employment Act.

[Mr. Carter.]

[English]

HOLDINGS OF CANADA SAVINGS BONDS IN 1969

Question No. 534—**Mr. Godin:**

1. During 1969, what was the amount of Canada Savings Bonds held by individuals in Canada?

2. What rate of interest is paid to them?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): 1. At December 31, 1969, the amount of Canada Savings Bonds outstanding was \$6,683 million of which more than 99 per cent were owned by individuals and estates, the remainder being held by associations, corporations and charitable organizations.

2. Rates paid on Canada Savings Bonds outstanding vary according to the issue held, and for certain of the issues, interest coupons are payable at various rates. The terms of all CSB issues outstanding may be found in the publication, Loans of Government of Canada and Loans Guaranteed by the Government of Canada.

CANADIAN OIL RESERVES

Question No. 537—**Mr. Aiken:**

1. How many barrels of proven oil reserves are estimated by the National Energy Board to be available in Canada?

2. At the anticipated rate of consumption, in how many years will these proven reserves be depleted?

3. Is there any difference of opinion among geologists concerning the amount of Canadian oil reserves?

4. Has any oil yet been discovered as a result of drilling in the Mackenzie Delta area?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The National Energy Board reports as follows: 1. The estimated crude oil reserves in Canada, as of December 31, 1969 were 8,619,805,000 barrels, not including the synthetic oil reserves of the Athabaska Oil Sands.

2. Twenty-one years and five months.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE—MAN-HOURS SAVED AS A RESULT OF USE OF COMPUTERS

Question No. 545—**Mr. Robinson:**

How many man-hours have been saved as a result of the utilization of computers by the Department of the Secretary of State during each year since computers have been used?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): It is estimated that approximately 3,240 man-hours have been saved by the use of data text computer system in the Department of the Secretary of State since installation in February 1970.

[English]

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE—LAY-OFFS AND HIRINGS AS A RESULT OF USE OF COMPUTERS

Question No. 546—**Mr. Robinson:**

As a result of the use of computers by the Department of the Secretary of State how many employees have been (a) laid off (b) hired?