

Questions

Mr. L. T. Pennell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): After encashment each cheque drawn on the Receiver General of Canada is reconciled to the amount in which it was originally issued, by the controller of the treasury. If the amount claimed by the encashing bank exceeds the amount for which the cheque was originally issued due to the cheque having been raised, settlement is made with the encashing bank for the original amount, the excess being a responsibility of the encashing bank. In addition, if evidence is produced that a bank has cashed a cheque on a forged endorsement, the amount involved is recovered from that bank.

In neither case is there any loss of public funds due to tampering with cheques.

LIFE INSURANCE ON CIVIL SERVANTS

Question No. 2,414—**Mr. Côté (Chicoutimi):**

1. Can members of parliament obtain life insurance on the same terms as employees of the civil service commission and, if not, for what reason?

2. What is the total amount of premiums on life insurance policies in force to cover federal employees and what is the number of participants in this federal government life insurance fund?

3. What are the total assets of the federal life insurance fund and what are its reserves?

4. What is the breakdown of investments in the life insurance fund?

5. Where can details relevant to the federal life insurance fund be found?

[Translation]

Mr. L. T. Pennell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): 1. No. The "life insurance" in question is provided by the supplementary death benefit plan under part II of the Public Service Superannuation Act which does not apply to members of parliament.

2. (a) During the fiscal year 1963-64 the contributions by public service participants under this plan and by the government in respect of them was \$4,729,765.

(b) As at March 31, 1964 there were 187,351 public service participants, both active and retired, covered by this plan.

3. The assets as represented by the balance in the public service death benefit account amounted to \$8,612,025 as at March 31, 1964. The last actuarial valuation of this account as at December 31, 1962 reported a contingency reserve of \$3,655,000 at that time when

the total assets of the account amounted to \$7,342,000.

4. This account forms part of the consolidated revenue fund. The government pays interest at the end of each quarter on the balance to the credit of the account at the end of the preceding quarter.

5. Additional information may be obtained from

(1) Report on the administration of the Public Service Superannuation Act for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1963 which was tabled on February 28, 1964,

(2) Report on actuarial examination of the public service death benefit account in the consolidated revenue fund as at December 31, 1962 which was tabled on November 12, 1964.

[Text]

COMMITTEE ON INSECTICIDES

Question No. 2,429—**Mr. Howe (Hamilton South):**

Has the government established a committee on insecticides, including representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Northern Affairs and National Resources and, if so (a) under whose authority was it established (b) when was it established (c) how often has it met, and (d) when, and to whom, is it expected to report?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, as recorded in *Hansard*, August 12, 1964, p. 6715, starred question No. 1,688. (a) The federal interdepartmental committee on pesticides was established by cabinet order on July 9, 1964. (b) See above. (c) Three times. (d) The committee is required to meet at least twice a year. It has met and reported three times. The committee reports to the Minister of Agriculture following each meeting.

CONTRACTS FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE BUILDING, JASPER PARK

Question No. 2,430—**Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson):**

1. What firms have had contracts for road building and bridge building in Jasper national park since April 1963?

2. Have any extras been approved and, if so, in what amount and to whom?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): 1. and 2. Additional payments were made after consideration by and approval of treasury board as set out in the two attached tables.

[Mr. Howe (Hamilton South).]