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2. Most legislation which has been on the books for some time has been subject to interpretation by practice and custom and by the courts. As a result, changes to this legislation to make it easier to read or more simple to understand would inevitably also lead to significant changes in meaning, interpretation and ambiguity. One would therefore have to move extremely cautiously in taking on the mammoth and expensive work of simplifying existing legislation. The resources already devoted to the very specialized task of legislative drafting are already heavily committed but there is in the miscellaneous statute law amendment program an ongoing process of legislative clarification.

With respect to legislation and regulations which are currently being proposed by the government, every effort is made to keep such legislation plain and comprehensible but the primary objective is to avoid ambiguity and to be certain that any legislative provision is open to only one logical interpretation.

Specifically, with respect to regulations, the House of Commons and the Senate have a standing joint committee on regulations and other statutory instruments which reviews all regulations before publication to ensure, among other things, that they are clear.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Question No. 206—**Mr. Herbert:**

How many (a) permanent (b) term employees were on the Department of National Defence's payroll on March 31, 1979?

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): (a) permanent—33,776 civilian employees; (b) term—4,885 civilian employees.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Question No. 232—**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):**

Between 1968-69 and 1978-79, what were the (a) cumulative (b) annual expenses incurred under the various Agricultural Products Price Support Programs?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):

Fiscal Year	(a)	(b)
	Cumulative	Annual
1968-69	\$ 976	\$ 976
1969-70	78,086	77,110
1970-71	475,761	397,675
1971-72	996,309	520,548
1972-73	1,415,298	418,989
1973-74	1,420,432	5,134
1974-75	1,518,176	97,744
1975-76	1,933,017	414,841
1976-77	3,054,947	1,121,930
1977-78	3,090,491	35,544
1978-79	3,345,771	255,280

[Mr. Lawrence.]

ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Question No. 354—**Mr. Herbert:**

How many Armed Forces personnel are in (a) the National Capital Region (b) each province and territory excluding the National Capital Region?

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs):

(a) National Capital Region	6,381
(b) Newfoundland	845
Prince Edward Island	951
Nova Scotia	12,131
New Brunswick	4,172
Quebec	10,459
Ontario	15,623
Manitoba	3,979
Saskatchewan	1,665
Alberta	7,024
British Columbia	8,257
Yukon Territory	6
Northwest Territories	306
Outside Canada	6,689
Total	78,488

ENVIRONMENT—HUMANE TRAPPING—TESTING

Question No. 366—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Was the Canadian Wildlife Service responsible for testing traps for fur-bearing animals sent in by inventors for approximately three years?

2. Was the testing stopped by the Department of the Environment and, if so (a) on what date (b) for what reason (c) how many traps were waiting to be tested at the time testing stopped?

3. Is the Department leaving the responsibility for testing entirely to the Federal-Provincial Committee for Humane Trapping and, if so, for what reason?

4. Is the Minister aware of the urgency of the need for the invention of humane traps and, if so, would the Minister make public the measures being taken to speed up such inventions?

5. What financial assistance, if any, is being given to inventors attempting to solve this problem and specifically, has any contract been issued to a research center, university etc. for the purpose of inventing a suitable trap or initiating research into other trapping methods such as the use of drugs?

6. What was the total amount of funds contributed in the past five years by the Department to speed the search into alternative trapping systems?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment):

1. No.

2. N/A.

3. Yes. That is the responsibility of the committee.

4. Yes. The Canadian Wildlife Service and the provinces gave impetus to the formation of the committee which is taking measures to speed up inventions.

5. The committee provides advice to inventors. It has assisted some inventors financially. It refers promising designs to the engineering department, McMaster University, for analysis and development. It arranged for the placement of an advertisement in the Research and Development Bulletin of DSS for space-age proposals for trap testing and trap ideas, but no new suitable proposals were received.