

Questions

Please note that expenditures are related to old Constituency of Lotbinière up to April 1967 and to the new Constituency of Lotbinière after April 1, 1967.

[English]

FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSES FOR
CIVIL SERVANTS

Question No. 244—**Mr. Coates:**

1. How many individuals in the federal Civil Service have received courses that would assist them in securing a working knowledge of the French language and of that number, how many are presently enrolled in such courses?

2. Of the number presently enrolled in French language courses (a) how many receive the courses while continuing with their employment (b) how many are receiving the courses while on leave of absence (c) how many on leave of absence have been granted leave for more than a period of one month?

3. Of the number enrolled in French language courses while continuing with their employment, how many are granted free time to take such courses and at the present time and for the present fiscal year, what is the number of man-hours lost to the federal Civil Service?

4. Of the number enrolled in French language courses who have obtained a leave of absence while taking the courses, how many are receiving their salary while taking these courses and what will be the estimated cost to the federal Treasury in the present fiscal year?

5. Of the number enrolled in French language courses who have obtained a leave of absence from their employment, how many have moved from Ottawa for such purposes and of those who have moved, how many have also moved their families and was assistance given to those who moved their families by the federal government and, if so, what will be the total cost to the federal Treasury in the present fiscal year?

Hon. Gerard Pelletier (Secretary of State):

I have been given the following information by the Public Service Commission: 1. (a) Since January 1, 1964, approximately 9700 public servants have attended French language courses in programs offered by the Public Service Commission. (It is not known how many have attended other courses). (b) On September 23, 1968, 690 public servants were attending French language courses conducted by the Public Service Commission.

2. Of the number enrolled as in 1 (b) above, (a) all receive courses while continuing with their employment; (b) none were on leave of absence; (c) not applicable.

3. Of the number enrolled as in 1 (b) above, All are granted free time to take such courses. In addition to this free time granted,

465 students are devoting up to 20 hours per week of their own time during each course.

In the view of the commission, the training time spent by public servants is a gain rather than a loss to the public service of Canada. The time devoted to training by the 690 public servants now attending French Language courses is 5700 man-hours per day of which 1950 hours will be on their own time. Students will attend classes for periods of 13 to 35 days depending on the level of instruction and the needs of the individual; thus the total man-hours that will be devoted by these public servants to French language training during the present fiscal year will not be known until the close of the year.

4. See 2(b) above.

5. See 2(b) above.

Note: The hon. member in posing questions 4 and 5 may have had in mind the public service bicultural development program in which 20 officials are attending for one year at Laval University and 10 at Toronto and York Universities, to follow varied academic programs. The total of salaries of the 20 officials attending at Laval in the French language will be approximately \$325,000 for the period of their secondment in the current fiscal year. All 20 have moved their families to Quebec with assistance given by the federal government which it is estimated will cost \$12,000 in the present fiscal year. Exact figures cannot be given until the end of the fiscal year.

*COURT ACTIONS BY RURAL MAIL
CONTRACTORS

Question No. 256—**Mr. Hales:**

Have any actions been initiated in the Exchequer Court of Canada by rural mail contractors against the federal government as a result of the postal mail strike and, if so, how many such actions were initiated to date?

Hon. Eric Kierans (Postmaster General):
Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question is no.

COST OF COLUMBIA RIVER PROJECTS

Question No. 259—**Mr. Harding:**

1. What has been the total cost of the Columbia River Treaty projects to date?

2. What is the present estimated cost of the projects when completed in 1973?

3. What was the total cost of the completed projects as estimated in the years (a) 1962 (b) 1963 (c) 1964 (d) 1965 (e) 1966 (f) 1967?