

formed by the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Unemployment Insurance Commission as follows: 1. With reference to "lay-off" procedures pertaining to the Public Service Employment Act: (a) An employee laid off from the Public Service is entitled to all the benefits of the Adult Occupational Training that apply to any unemployed person. These include occupational training; (b) The Adult Occupational Training Act provides for training allowances. Furthermore, Public Service employees when laid off, depending upon their status under collective bargaining, are entitled to either severance pay or retiring leave. Most collective agreements signed to date provide for severance pay equivalent to up to 28 weeks' pay, depending on length of service. For other employees, there is provision for up to 26 weeks' retiring leave on full pay under the Public Service Terms and Conditions of Employment Regulations.

2. Not applicable.

3. The coverage of employment in the federal public service is now permitted, under Unemployment Insurance Regulation No. 70, for employees who have not been declared permanent. The advisability of revising the unemployment insurance program is being studied, and the status of employments now excluded from the Act will be reviewed as part of this study.

*CLOSING OF ONTARIO POST OFFICES

Question No. 2,288—**Mr. Ryndard:**

1. How many post offices were closed in Ontario?
2. What number had rural routes emanating from each post office?
3. What was the average cost per patron?
4. What is the average cost for city delivery per patron?
5. What was the cost per patron when added to other rural mail routes?
6. How many postmasters were not notified of the closing of the post office and how much severance pay was required?
7. How many rural mail carriers received severance pay and what was the amount?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this question is also quite long and I wonder whether the house would agree that it be printed and the answer considered as read.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Forest: In so far as the post office department is concerned—

1. 144 since 1 April, 1967.

29180—670

Questions

2. There were 32 routes emanating from the following 31 post offices: Clontarf, Corkery, Dorland, Fairfield East, Fallbrook, Halloway (R.R.1 & R.R. 2), Lonsdale, Rankin, South Monaghan, Wemyss, Anten Mills, Cresswell, Duncan, Dunedin, Rathburn, Riverview, Aberfeldy, Belton, Crinan, Eden Grove, Greenock, North Bruce, Ostrander, Pinkerton, Science Hill, Walkers, Alderdale, Eau Claire, Ice Lake, Ophir, Rydal Bank.

\$28.03 per annum was the average cost per rural route patron for the 31 offices concerned.

\$24.27 per annum is the national average cost for offices where letter carrier delivery service is provided.

\$26.18 per annum was the average cost per rural route patron for the offices concerned.

All postmasters were notified of the closing of their offices and no severance pay was required.

Nine contractors received severance pay totalling \$1,028.03.

CHILCOTIN, B.C., FORESTRY STATION

Question No. 2,338—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

1. Has any department or agency of government built or otherwise acquired a forestry station or similar structure in the Chilcotin area of British Columbia?

2. If so, when was this built or acquired, what is its location, what costs were incurred, and what is its purpose?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): 1. No.

2. Not applicable.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSONNEL

Question No. 2,350—**Mr. Robinson:**

1. Does the Department of Labour have a public relations staff and, if so, how many?

2. What was the total cost of public relations for the Department for each of the years 1960-68 inclusive?

Mr. Jim McNulty (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): 1. No, Department of Labour staff are designated specifically for public relations responsibilities which activities are carried out within the general program of the Public Relations and Information Services Branch made up of 22 officers and 34 support staff.

2. It is not possible to specifically identify public relations expenditures.