

GREY-SIMCOE, ONT., POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Question No. 1,241—**Mr. Noble:**

How many post offices has the government closed and how many more does it propose to close in the constituency of Grey-Simcoe?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned—1. None. Studies are being conducted with a view to closing post offices within the closing program criteria but no decision has been made on any particular case as yet.

C.B.C.—TAPED CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Question No. 1,243—**Mr. Crouse:**

1. Did Canadian Broadcasting Corporation personnel travel overseas prior to Christmas to tape Christmas greetings from service men and their families for transmission to relatives in Canada?

2. If so, what are the names of the Canadian Forces bases visited by the CBC, and the number of interviews?

3. With respect to the Atlantic Provinces, were all the interviews rebroadcast, and, if not, for what reason, and what particular ones were not given?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the CBC as follows: 1. No. However, a CBC concert party visited Alert, N.W.T., early in December to entertain Canadian troops. Twelve Christmas messages from servicemen for their families were taped and all were broadcast on the "On Stage" program December 22.

2. and 3. See 1. above.

CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Question No. 1,262—**Mr. Beaudoin:**

1. How many post offices have been closed by the Post Office Department from 1965 to 1968 inclusive?

2. How many post offices were closed by the Post Office Department in each Quebec constituency and in each of the provinces?

3. Is the same criteria applied for closing post offices across Canada and, if not, in what manner does it differ?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned: 1. 1,101.

2. (a) Because of changes in electoral districts, this information is not available by constituencies for the required period; (b) Number of post offices closed in each province in the years 1965 to 1968 inclusive: Newfoundland, 49; Prince Edward Island, 21;

Nova Scotia, 141; New Brunswick, 96; Quebec, 181; Ontario, 175; Manitoba, 77; Saskatchewan, 147; Alberta, 132; British Columbia, 76; Yukon, 3; Northwest Territories, 3.

3. Yes.

Questions

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES

Question No. 1,278—**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):**

1. Did the Department of National Health and Welfare ever have a study made on the possible harmful effects on human and animal health following the use of (a) pesticides, insecticides and fungicides, etc.? (b) following excessive use of chemical fertilizers for plants, vegetables, pastures, etc.?

2. If so, what was the result of that study?

[Translation]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. (a) Yes; (b) No.

2. The Food and Drug Directorate has underway an extensive program of research on pesticides, including insecticides and fungicides. Certain insecticides containing phosphorus have been shown to produce skeletal abnormalities in chicken and duck embryos, but the amounts required to produce this effect are much higher than those found in foods sold in Canada. Other studies showed that small amounts of organochlorine insecticides are present in the body fat of Canadians. The levels of these substances are similar to those found in other countries and are not considered to be hazardous to health. Investigations are underway on the breakdown of insecticides and fungicides in plants used for food. Breakdown products have been detected, but the small amounts present do not pose a health hazard to the public.

The Food and Drug Directorate also carries out extensive monitoring of the Canadian food supply for pesticide residues. The results have shown that normal use of pesticides does not result in the presence of residues in foods in amounts which are considered a hazard to health.

[English]

SECRETARY OF STATE TRANSLATIONS BUREAU

Question No. 1,281—**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

1. How many persons are employed in the Translations Bureau of the Department of the Secretary of State?

2. Of these (a) how many are translators (b) how many are administrative personnel?