

Order Paper Questions

2. What action is being taken by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to assure that the differential in price of "A" and "C" grades of beef is retained throughout the distribution system until purchased by the consumer?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer and Corporate Affairs as follows: 1. Graded beef carcasses are appraised for maturity, quality and fat level and the appropriate grade stamped on each carcass 10 times (five on each side)—on the short hip, sirloin, short loin rib and chuck. When the grade stamps have been applied, the plant applies a registered coded ribbon-brand, which is a continuous ribbon-like brand which runs from the hip to the front portion of the chuck. This brand must be applied at the time of grading and under the general supervision of the grading inspector. The ribbon-brands designate grade both by words and colour. Grade stamps and colour-coded ribbon brands are carried through the merchandising chain, however, at the retail level during breaking of carcasses into retail cuts, all or part of the stamps and ribbon-brand may disappear due to cutting and trimming.

2. There is no legislation administered by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which regulates the price differential between grades of beef to ensure that such differential are retained throughout the distribution system. These differentials have been established by competition in the market place and recently selling practices have changed at the retail level, that have given more prominence to the maintenance of these differentials. The beef inquiry recently announced by the government will be examining this question. If there are recommendations to the department on this matter, the department will be prepared to respond at that time.

DOCUMENT ADVERTISING OPENINGS FOR SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES IN THE ONTARIO POSTAL REGION

Question No. 1,097—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Was a document advertising openings for seasonal employees in the Ontario Postal Region circulated showing the new pay rates would be \$3.84 per hour for inside (sorting), \$4.02 per hour for heavy work (mail handler) and \$4.21 per hour for outside (letter carrier)?

2. Was a further document sent to each accepted applicant showing a change in pay rates to be \$2.50 per hour for inside work and \$2.75 per hour for outside work?

3. What are all the reasons for the discrepancy shown in the rates of pay?

Mr. Raynald Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): 1. Yes, however this was issued in error.

2. Yes, a further document was sent to each accepted applicant showing a change in pay rates to be \$2.50 per hour for inside work and \$2.75 per hour for outside work except for some 17 candidates in the Ottawa Post Office who were not notified of the rate change, consequently, they were paid at the higher rate until they were notified of the change in rates on December 6, 1974.

3. The rates \$3.84, \$4.02, and \$4.21 are contract rates established for employees carrying out the full range of duties. The rates \$2.50 and \$2.75 were established for Christmas helpers who are not required to carry out the full range of duties.

[Mr. MacLean.]

DEPARTMENT OF SOLICITOR GENERAL—TRANSLATION OF
DOCUMENTS

Question No. 1,109—**Mr. McKenzie:**

1. What documents of any and all description (such as any type of form, records, stationery, employee directives, etc.) within the entire Department of the Solicitor General have to be translated into the French language?

2. Retroactive to what date will all past records of the Department have to be translated?

3. At what date must all of these translations be completed?

4. What amount of money was spent in the years 1973 and 1974 for translating such documents?

5. What will be the total cost of translating all existing documents, forms, stationery, records, etc. within the Department's entire operation?

6. What is the total additional yearly cost of ordering all new forms, stationery, etc. in two languages compared to the cost in one language?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of the Solicitor General and the Secretary of State as follows: Ministry Secretariat, Canadian Penitentiary Service, National Parole Board & Service: 1. All documents such as forms, stationery, employee directives, etc. are translated into the appropriate official language. Records, such as employees' files or correspondence on any other file, are translated only if required.

2 and 3. Past records are translated only as required. Many documents in the past, such as employee directives, forms, stationery, etc., were bilingual. However, because of the government's official languages policy, they have been reviewed and, where necessary, changes made to bring them into line with the Federal Identity Program. As the Ministry of the Solicitor General has only been in existence for seven years, the amount of translation required on past records is minimal.

4. It is difficult to provide a precise answer to the question in terms of the Department of the Solicitor General, since, in order to achieve greater efficiency, the government of Canada has consolidated all translation, interpretation and terminology under a single administration, designed to serve all the departments and public bodies which depend on them. Costs are not apportioned according to the types of activities mentioned above. However, the total demand for translation as represented by the number of words is available for the years 1972-1973 and 1973-1974. The production in words for 1972-1973 was 607,442; for 1973-1974 it was 713,000. On the basis of an analysis of operating costs for the translation bureau, the total operating costs are estimated at about ten cents per word for the two years in question.

5. Due to the number and variety of factors involved, such as the time required for translators to complete each item or task, the continuously increasing cost for personnel, accommodation and material, no reasonable estimate of cost can be determined.

6. No comparative costs are available.

NOTE: Translation services for the Ministry of the Solicitor General are provided by the Secretary of State Department. No charges are attached to this service.