

Questions

million and \$650 million respectively, so that the additional costs of the new proposals are estimated at \$170 million.

CMHC TASK FORCE ON LOW INCOME HOUSING

Question No. 416—**Mr. McCleave:**

Did CMHC commission a task force under Michael Dennis and, if so (a) for what purposes (b) how many reports were requested by the task force and from whom (c) what will be the total cost of this task force?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): In January, 1971, a study of low income housing was commissioned by CMHC, to be carried out by a task force, headed by Mr. Michael Dennis. (a) The main purposes of the study were to examine present approaches to low income housing, and the extent to which current program meet stated objectives, and also to consider what the future role of CMHC in the low income housing field might be. The study was to provide, over the long run, a range of policy alternatives supported by research.

(b) The following ten studies were commissioned by the Low Income Housing Task Force: (i) Melvin Charney: study of the adequacy and production of low income housing. (ii) G. Fortin: study of social and institutional aspects of the provision of low income housing in Quebec. (iii) Professor George Molins-Ysal: study of the residential housing construction industry. (iv) Dr. Aprodicio Laquian: study on internal migration and low income housing. (v) Michael Clague: study of citizen group development in Vancouver and its implications for low income housing policy. (vi) Professors Deutsch and Green: study of the public finance aspects of low income housing. (vii) Professor Helen Abel: preparation of policy recommendations in the area of rural housing. (viii) M. Fernand Hwon, CRUR-INRS: study of the housing projects under CMHC directive administration in Montreal. (ix) Mr. George Hunter: study of housing policies and programs of the federal departments and agencies other than CMHC. (x) Planning Secretariat of Manitoba: study of low income housing in Manitoba undertaken in conjunction with the Task Force on Low Income Housing.

(c) The cost of the task force as at February 29, 1972, was \$322,857.05.

PENSION OF RIGHT HON. LESTER B. PEARSON

Question No. 529—**Mr. Godin:**

Does the former Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, receive a pension from the government and, if so, is it subject to income tax?

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Privy Council office and the Department of Supply and Services as follows: The Right Hon. L. B. Pearson receives a pension as a former prime minister under the terms of the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act and also receives an annuity under the Civil Service Superannuation Act. These pensions are subject to income tax. Parliamentary pensions payable to former Members of Parliament are under the administrative jurisdiction of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

[Mr. Munro.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR QUEBEC OFFICE

Question No. 545—**Mr. Godin:**

1. Does the Quebec office of the Post Office Department recruit staff through competition or personal interview?

2. If by competition are they public or simply reserved for a small group?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): 1. The Quebec postal region recruits its staff by open competition. Candidates are expected to fill out an application form which is subsequently studied by a personnel officer. If the candidate claims to possess the required qualifications and he passes the written examination, in cases where such is a requirement, he will be called for interview by a selection board. The personal interview, therefore, is an integral part of the competition process. No employee is admitted to permanent status within the Department who has not been interviewed. I must add, however, that the Quebec postal region, in common with departmental practice across Canada, does not necessarily resort to open competition when filling positions for which there are adequate candidates within the department. This applies to nearly all supervisory or promotion positions, and for certain lower level positions which are filled from the ranks of casual or part-time employees. A personal interview would not necessarily be held, for instance, if a part-time employee, who was well known to the supervisor, was moved into a permanent position. He would, however, have been interviewed when first recruited as a part-time employee.

2. There are no restrictions as to who may or may not apply in an open competition.

POST OFFICE REVENUE FROM RENTAL OF LOCK BOXES

Question No. 572—**Mr. Penner:**

1. What revenue is derived annually by the Post Office Department from the rental of lock boxes to boxholders?

2. Has the minister or his officials considered making these available free of charge in communities which lack letter carrier service?

3. Is the present box rental system discriminatory against those who live in small communities which do not have household mail delivery and, if so (a) for what reason (b) what steps are contemplated to eliminate such discrimination?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): 1. During the fiscal year 1970-71 the revenues derived from the rental of lock boxes amounted to \$5,061,338. The revenues from this source for the fiscal year 1971-72 will approximate \$4,875,000. Final figures not available.

2. In communities which lack letter carrier service, the normal means of free delivery in smaller centres is over the counter; in the rural areas delivery is made by a rural route courier. The lock box service is an optional service and an additional convenience supplementary to the normal free method of delivery. The policy of the Post Office is that the cost related to the operation and administration of this service should be borne by those who benefit directly from it.

3. No. Lock box fees in the urban centres are higher than in the rural centres because salary and accommodation costs are much higher in the urban centres.