

## Questions

[English]

## POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Question No. 2,024—**Mr. Laprise:**

1. How many post offices have been closed in each province in Canada since June 25, 1968 and how many post offices is it proposed to close during the year 1969?

2. How many families are affected by the changes in their addresses?

3. How much does the government expect to save in each province by the closing of these post offices?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications):** In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned:

1. (a) British Columbia, 13; Alberta, 42; Saskatchewan, 40; Manitoba, 37; Ontario, 92; Quebec, 51; New Brunswick, 32; Nova Scotia, 45; Prince Edward Island, 16; Newfoundland, 11; Northwest Territories, 1; Yukon, 0.

(b) 235 for the period of June 1969 to December 1969 inclusive.

2. Departmental records are not maintained in such a way that would make it possible to compile these statistics.

3. Departmental records are not maintained in such a way as to permit compilation of savings broken down by provinces. However, since the inception of the Department's program in February 1967, to close small unproductive Post Offices, an approximate saving of \$513,865 has been realized throughout the country.

## THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT

Question No. 2,047—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

1. Is there an international agreement entitled "The Florence Agreement" which the Government of Canada has not yet signed and, if so, for what reason?

2. How many countries have signed this agreement?

3. Did Canada participate in the drafting of this agreement?

4. What countries have not yet signed this agreement?

5. When is it expected that Canada may sign this agreement?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** 1. Yes, there is an international agreement called the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, which was adopted in

Florence in July 1950 and opened for signature at Lake Success, New York on November 22, 1950. Canada has not signed the agreement because it has not been considered to be in Canada's interest to abandon the limited protection afforded domestic producers against imports of certain educational, scientific and cultural materials as long as important trading partners maintained barriers against Canadian exports of these materials. Canada does impose a small duty on such imports but other countries, even where no tariffs are maintained, continue to limit imports from Canada of these materials by the use of stringent non-tariff barriers. In any event the question of Canada's accession is under continuous review in the light of changing conditions in trade and the intensive study into aspects of intellectual property currently being prepared by the Economic Council.

2. As of May 22, 1969, the agreement had entered into force for 62 countries. A further eight countries had signed but not ratified the agreement and the agreement is not in force for these countries.

3. No.

4. Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian S. S. R., Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Maldives Islands, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian S.S.R., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia (63).

5. See answer 1.

## USE OF CHEMICAL "MACE"

Question No. 2,101—**Mr. Saltzman:**

1. Has a decision been made by the RCMP on the use of the chemical "mace"?

2. Is there a Department of National Health and Welfare report on this chemical?

3. Is there a report in the Solicitor General's Department on the use of this chemical?

4. Is there a report by the RCMP on the use of this chemical?