

POST OFFICE—COST OF COLLECTING POSTAGE DUE BY MEANS OF HONOUR SYSTEM CARDS

Question No. 134—**Mr. Coates:**

1. What was the cost of producing the cards informing Canadian postage was due when the Post Office Department increased the price of postage stamps from seven cents to eight cents?
2. Who produced the cards?
3. How many were produced and how many were used?
4. Of the total number mailed regarding underpayment of postage (a) how many were returned with the postage payment (b) what was the total amount received (c) how many who were contacted for such underpayment did not return the cards?
5. What was the total cost to the Post Office Department for this operation?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): The process of collecting postage due by means of Honour System Cards was instituted some years ago and is a continuing system. No special provisions or cards were made as a result of recent increases in postage rates. No special statistics are maintained and it would not be possible to furnish the information requested in questions 1 to 5. Incidentally, these cards are not mailed but are left by the delivering employee with the postage due item.

DISTRIBUTION OF POSTER ADVERTISING FOR ASSISTANT TO WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Question No. 137—**Mr. Marshall:**

1. What was the distribution of Poster 72 DVA-HQ1 advertising for an Executive Assistant to the War Veterans Allowance Board Chairman?
2. Were copies sent to all Canadian Legion Branches?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Public Service Commission as follows: 1. All departments throughout Canada and Overseas. All portions of the Public Service of Canada that are separate employers. All agencies, boards and corporations. Members of Parliament. Deputy Ministers. All placement Officers in universities, institutes and colleges throughout Canada. Canada Manpower Centres. Certified Bargaining Agents. In addition, an advertisement was placed in all the major daily newspapers throughout Canada.

2. No. However, an advertisement was placed in "The Legion".

[English]

ANALYSIS OF MERCURY CONTENT IN FISH—GOUIN BASIN

Question No. 154—**Mr. Matte:**

1. Has any analysis been made of the mercury content in fish, especially pickerel and pike, in the Gouin Basin in Haute-Mauricie and, if so (a) on what date was such analysis made (b) for what reason (c) who requested such analysis (d) what were the exact results for each lake and river in the Basin?
2. Have any shipments of pickerel and pike from the Gouin Basin been rejected in the United States and, if so (a) who was the consignee (b) who was the shipper (c) what assurance is there that the fish really came from the Gouin Basin?
3. What would be the exact causes of the high mercury content of the pickerel and pike in this area?

Questions

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): 1. Yes.

(a) Location	Sampling Period
Reservoir Gouin	June to September 1971
Lac Levasseur	August to September 1971
Riviere St. Maurice	June to August 1971

(b) To ensure that the commercial fish production from the area in question complies with the guidelines established by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

(c) The Inspection Branch, Fisheries Services, Department of the Environment.

(d) Lake or River	Species	Mercury Levels in PPM		
		Low	Mean	High
Reservoir Gouin	(Pickerel)	0.23	0.82	1.63
	(Pike)	0.22	1.23	1.84
Lac Levasseur	(Pickerel)	0.54	0.71	1.01
	(Pike)	0.32	0.72	1.33
Riviere St. Maurice	(Pickerel)	0.29	0.82	1.27

2. No.

3. The contamination may be the result of mercury compounds being leached into the watershed from natural geological occurrences such as from cinnabar deposits, as is the situation in a number of other locations in Canada. There is no evidence to indicate that mercury contamination of pickerel and pike harvested from the Gouin Basin is attributable to industrial pollution.

COMMITMENTS UNDER AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION BOARD TO OFFSET UNITED STATES 10 PER CENT SURTAX

Question No. 201—**Mr. Burton:**

What commitments were made by the government under the Agricultural Stabilization Board to offset difficulties during the period when the United States 10 per cent surtax was in effect?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): During the period when the United States 10 per cent surtax was in effect the Agricultural Stabilization Board: 1. Offered a special subsidy of 50 cents per bird for fowl slaughtered during an eight week period providing the number slaughtered exceeded the normal kill in the period; the subsidy to be pro rated among all producers.

2. Offered to purchase and can up to 4 million pounds of eviscerated turkeys.

3. Offered to purchase Canada No. 1 potatoes at \$1.50 per hundredweight.

4. Offered \$114,000 to the Canadian Horticultural Council for market promotion of fresh apples.

5. Offered a supplementary subsidy of 1½ cents per pound to blueberry producers on product delivered in the period August 16, 1971 to October 15, 1971.