

Questions

he serves was not in good health and Mr. Lukenan had been temporarily replacing him. The one year period would also permit the third Officer to up-grade his certificate of competency so that he would be qualified to replace Mr. Lukenan.

4. Captain Hatcher's case was dealt with regionally, although there had been one consultation with headquarters officials. Mr. Lukenan's case was approved by the Deputy Minister.

5. Where bilingualism is considered desirable, it is taken into account when filling positions on ships or in considering reasons for extension of service.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOLLOWING
INSURANCE OVERPAYMENTS

Question No. 1,806—**Mr. MacEwan:**

1. Is it intended that any disciplinary action will be taken against officials of the Unemployment Insurance Commission or other public servants in consequence of the discovery that overpayments in unemployment insurance during the 1968-69 fiscal year amounted to some 3 million dollars?

2. Has any disciplinary action been taken so far and, if so, what is the nature of the disciplinary action?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): The Unemployment Insurance Commission advises: 1. No, since this is not a matter which can be entirely controlled by the Commission and its staff. From its inception, the Commission has always exercised enforcement and control measures to ensure that the payment of benefits is made to people who are entitled under the law. In programs of this type, however, a degree of loss through overpayments is inevitable because of false or erroneous declarations on the part of claimants which are initially accepted at face value in order to make payments as quickly as possible and with a minimum of formality. The Commission attempts to keep the loss within one or two per cent of the amount of benefits paid, which is a rough guide used by agencies in this type of operation in other countries. The Commission's efforts have been particularly evident since the end of last year when a major campaign of public education and benefit control was launched to reduce the loss to the Unemployment Insurance Fund to a minimum. Although this new program has been in operation for only a few months, substantial improvements have already been achieved.

2. Not applicable.

[Mr. Whelan.]

J. WALTER MILLER—FRENCH LANGUAGE
COURSE APPLICATION

Question No. 1,843—**Mr. Paproski:**

1. Did J. Walter Miller, supervisor, Laboratory of Hygiene sub-registry, Registry Services Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, make application for a French language course given by the Public Service, and, if so (a) was his application accepted (b) if not, by whom was this application rejected and on what grounds?

2. What is the policy of the Public Service Language Bureau with regard to enrolment of public servants in French language courses?

3. Is the administrative support category of public servants, of which Mr. Miller is a member, listed outside of the preferred categories for French language training?

4. Is bilingualism currently a required qualification for appointment in Public Service administrative support categories?

5. When is it estimated by the Public Service Language Bureau that administrative support categories will be permitted to enroll in French language courses in order to qualify for promotion within that category?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Public Service Commission as follows: 1. The Department of National Health and Welfare submitted an application for Language Training for Mr. John Walter Miller on December 18, 1967. The type of training course requested was for either two hours three times a week or one hour daily. (a) The application was accepted and Mr. Miller's instructional level was the beginning of the first level; (b) Mr. Miller could not be put on course at that time because the courses he requested had started in September 1967, and students were already 40 per cent of the way through the year's work. Beginning in September 1968 one-hour daily and two-hours three times a week courses were mostly replaced by intensive courses. Only those students participating in slow-paced courses as at July 25, 1968 who could not be integrated in the intensive courses were permitted to continue training in this type of course.

2. The policy of the Public Service Language Bureau with regard to enrolment of public servants in French language courses is: (1) First order priority for language training is given to members of the Executive and Administrative and Foreign Service categories (or the equivalent in agencies not subject to the Public Service classification system).

Next in order of priority are first (lowest) level supervisors in the Professional and Scientific and Technical Categories who