

*Oral Questions*

therbed" with senior officers of the service and I am satisfied it is a proper one for the service to be involved in.

**Mr. Cossitt:** My final supplementary arises out of a statement made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Halifax and widely publicized today to the effect that he was positive that files were maintained on all those who are prominent in public life, particularly cabinet ministers. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to tell us whether this is true, whether it is government policy that this should be done?

**Mr. Fox:** I assume there are a number of files on members of the present cabinet. A number of us were engaged in work in the Prime Minister's office before entering active politics and our employment there made it necessary that security clearance be obtained through the RCMP.

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## POST OFFICE

## REASON FOR EXPENDITURES ON PUBLICITY PROGRAMS

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Postmaster General. In view of the opposition of the general public to the present publicity program associated with the Post Office Department, can the minister tell us why the Post Office is spending taxpayers' money at a time when it is in such a serious deficit position?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** I listened with some interest to the hon. gentleman's motion under Standing Order 43. I am not aware of any ongoing publicity campaign being televised at the present time.

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## AGRICULTURE

## POSSIBILITY OF IMPORT QUOTA FOR BEEF IN 1978

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the Minister of Agriculture but in his absence I shall direct it to the acting minister or to the parliamentary secretary. It arises from a reference he made during the throne speech debate to the possibility of a Canadian meat import law or the establishment of a meat import authority. In the event that important legislation on this subject is not available by the end of the year, and in view of the fact that there has been only slight downward adjustments in world cattle inventories, especially in Australia and New Zealand, does the minister intend to announce temporary quotas on imported beef for 1978 as he did for 1977?

[Translation]

**Mr. Yves Caron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am taking note of the question asked by the hon. member and I will immediately bring this matter to the attention of the minister.

[Mr. Fox.]

[English]

## COW-CALF STABILIZATION—AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** My supplementary is for the parliamentary secretary and it has to do with the current cow-calf stabilization policy which has been in existence for the whole of this year. I would have asked the minister whether he intends to announce details of the pay-out under this policy and whether he would hazard a guess as to whether or not there will be a pay-out at all this year.

[Translation]

**Mr. Yves Caron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as I did for the first question, I am taking note of it and I will report to the minister.

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● (1432)

[Translation]

## THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## INQUIRY OF HEALTH MINISTER WHETHER TAPES OF SPEECH TO CARLETON STUDENTS ACCURATE

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in order to clarify a few things. Surely she had enough time to listen to the tapes made by university students of the speech she delivered before them last week. Could she tell the House today whether these tapes which we have all heard reflect exactly what she said before those students.

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, rather than analyze the interpretations of interpretations—we are now at the third rendition of what I have said and I do not remember anything whatsoever. I did check what an hon. member in the opposition had asked me and also the only point on the cabinet responsibility upon which I would like to report to the House. As for the medical records of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, and in as much as I have been able to check out, no medical record of patients or no—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

**Miss Bégin:** No, I know very well what I am doing. I am telling the House what it ought to know. No record has been communicated to agents of the armed forces or the RCMP.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, once more unto the breach. To my mind, the statements the minister made last week are very important bearing in mind the fact that she recognized that the instruments of the security service were such that the government no longer exercised any control over it. Did the Minister of National Health and Welfare make her statement on the lack of governmental control bearing in mind those powerful instruments which she described to the university students?