

POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON PERMITTING COMPETITIVE SERVICES TO BE ESTABLISHED

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary both to the last and the previous one, but I direct it to the Postmaster General. Since the government is prepared to break the postal monopoly given to it by law to secure the interests of pensioners and family allowance recipients during the mail strike, will it also allow other competitive service similar to the post office to operate, bearing in mind the needs of businesses and others dependent on first class mail?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the last few words, first class mail. The only monopoly we have is in that area. I can assure the hon. member that we have a lot of competition in all other areas such as parcel post and second class mail. Fortunately, all family allowance cheques and all senior citizen cheques have been delivered. None are due until late November. Arrangements will be finalized by that time and delivery of November, December, January, February, and possibly March will all be made at the same time.

With regard to the question of whether we will entertain competition in first class mail, it will depend on whether that competition is prepared to handle the less profitable routes such as, shall we say, from Ottawa to the constituency of the hon. member in which case we would be glad to give them that particular area. Finally, I think it is equally important, and I notified the House of this before, that the main issue in the strike was a question of automation and that particular problem was solved some time Saturday.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

● (1500)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF EXTRADITION TREATY WITH UNITED STATES, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the following documents in accordance with Standing Order 41(2): (1) Prior to ratification, the new extradition treaty with the United States of America which was signed at Washington on December 3, 1971, and the text of which was subsequently amended by an exchange of notes on June 28 and July 9, 1974. The treaty is basically a consolidation in one text of the present network of some half-dozen treaties dating back to 1842; (2) the texts of 32 international agreements.

Order Paper Questions

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE DRIVE-IN POLLING STATIONS

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-413, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (drive-in polling stations).

He said: The purpose of this bill is to provide, in every electoral district in which there is at least one incorporated city or town having a population of 15,000 or more, that the returning officer establish a drive-in advance polling station for the use of electors who are aged, infirm or approaching termination of pregnancy. This bill would enable such electors to cast their votes in secret, without the aid of a proxy.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

[English]

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,231, 3,039 and 3,116.

[Text]

GRANTS—GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION

Question No. 1,231—**Mr. Hogan:**

1. Is it the intention of the government to consider the repurchase of Canadair from the General Dynamics Corporation Ltd. (USA)?
2. (a) What were the terms of the contract of sale of Canadair by the government to General Dynamics Corporation Ltd. immediately after the Second World War (b) what were the names of those who negotiated the sale (c) what were the details, such as the sale price, assets, etc.?
3. What was (a) the value of government grants of all types (b) the programme under which grants were given to General Dynamics Corporation Ltd. since the date of sale of Canadair until the present day and the value of these grants specifically marked for Canadair Ltd.?
4. (a) What is the actual price at which the government intends to buy back Canadair and the legislation under which it is to be repurchased (b) what are the assets of Canadair and its sales potential in light of the deteriorating market for new aircraft of all types?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce and National Defence as follows: 1. The signing of an Option Agreement on January 15, 1975, indicated the Government's intent to consider the purchase of Canadair from General Dynamics.

2. Early in 1947, the Electric Boat Company of New Jersey was authorized to acquire the bulk of the Canadair Limited stock subject to the following terms: (1) Electric Boat to provide Canadair Limited with \$2,000,000 working capital. (2) The War Assets Corporation to grant Canadair Limited a lease with option to purchase with respect to the plant, equipment and aircraft tooling for \$3,500,000. In 1949, Canadair Limited purchased additional land, buildings and equipment from the Crown for \$3,800,000. In 1955, Canadair Limited purchased the balance of the Crown assets for \$11,500,000. All these transactions were on the