

*Inquiries of the Ministry*OTTAWA—STATEMENT ON REPORTED  
POSTPONEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF POSTAL  
HEADQUARTERS

member will read the answer I gave at that time I think he will receive the information he is seeking.

**Mr. Byrne:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Will or will not this action throw some 200 Canadians out of work, or will they be rehired?

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, the action taken by Mr. Hal Banks on July 24 threw 226 Canadians out of work.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a supplementary question. Would the minister not consider it better to change the registry of Mr. Banks rather than the registry of the ships?

## POTATOES

MARITIME PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR PARITY  
PRICES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Murphy (Westmorland):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. What action has been taken or is being considered by the government to ensure adequate parity for maritime potato growers based on a fair price-cost relationship?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question of legislation respecting agricultural prices was referred to in the speech from the throne. At the earliest possible date on which we can do so, that legislation which the government has in mind will be introduced.

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS

OTTAWA—STATEMENT ON POSTPONEMENT OF  
CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
HEADQUARTERS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Gour) asked a question regarding the construction of a new national defence headquarters.

A brief answer is that there is no provision in the 1957-58 estimates for the commencement of construction of such a building in the present fiscal year. I should not like, however, to give the impression that consideration is not being given to the possibility of erecting such a building or buildings at some future date, but no decision as to the location or the possible date of commencement of construction has yet been reached.

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On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. O. Gour (Russell):** Mr. Speaker, may I have an answer from the Minister of Public Works to the question I put to him yesterday?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the hon. member for Russell asked whether the project for the construction of a new building for the Post Office Department had been shelved. The answer is that it has not been shelved. On the contrary, plans are under preparation and will be finished some time in the new year. It will then be possible to decide when actual construction can begin.

## TELEVISION

NEW BRUNSWICK—STATEMENT ON COVERAGE FOR  
NORTHERN AREA

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 5, the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) asked what action is being taken to provide the 250,000 people of northern New Brunswick and the Gaspé coast with television facilities.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation advises me that if an application for a private television station in this area is made—and there are reports to the effect that such an application is being made—and the application is subsequently approved and the station established, the corporation would expect to provide national program service for that station.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a related question. In view of the enhanced interest I have myself in television, may I ask the minister how soon he expects the microwave system to be extended to St. John's, Newfoundland?

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to speak definitely for St. John's, Newfoundland. After watching the television appearance of the former minister last night I can understand the interest he is taking in the matter. I am sure he will maintain an interest in the television programs of the C.B.C. I can tell him that the microwave system will be continued at least to the mainland by the end of December or very early in January of this coming year, and I would hope that the citizens of Bonavista-Twillingate will have an opportunity of seeing the hon. member on television in the early spring.