

great deal of work and has really created very much unnecessary work for the postal service in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I notice that those who are dictator-minded sitting opposite in this House applaud that statement. What is the idea of interfering with an individual's rights? Is this another example of power at any price?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have never been particularly affected by the grunts that come from the opposite side of the House. When a minister rises in this House and, apparently acting with government support, says that my mail, because, it is going to cause trouble to the Post Office, shall not be delivered to me, it is time to protest. This is interference with freedom of the individual to communicate whenever and however he wishes, so long as what he sends through the mail is not filthy. Apparently, they regard protests as being filthy literature.

Mr. Speaker: The Postmaster General is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Kierans: I am simply reiterating that this has caused chaos in the postal service. I also want to state that while the people who would write to the right hon. member obviously know who he is, they do not always know who his leader is or who his colleagues are.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether this will help to solve the difficulty. Perhaps we might move to another question in a moment.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a supplementary question for the President of the Privy Council. Could the hon. gentleman indicate when he is proposing to bring forward for consideration by this House the report of the Committee on Statutory Instruments which recommends certain protection against arbitrary ministerial actions?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Bill of Rights does that now. This post office order is flouting the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a question for the Post-

Inquiries of the Ministry

master General. I wish to ask him whether at some later date he could make a statement on motions or issue a press release outlining his side of the story on the cabinet split?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege concerning all members of the House regarding the longstanding principle of cabinet solidarity, which is of the essence of government in this country. I asked the Minister of Communications that question because of a bulletin put out by the Department of Labour in which the Minister of Labour referred to the cabinet split, and while patting himself on the back ran down the Minister of Communications.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RHODESIA—STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the government taking any further action to strengthen economic sanctions against Rhodesia as a result of the recent resolution of the Security Council on that subject?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the hon. gentleman and the House know we have, of course, severed all relations with that régime. We have complied fully with all existing United Nations sanctions. We are now reviewing the situation in light of the latest resolution.

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL—LOSS OF MAIL IN FIRE

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): My question is for the Postmaster General. I wish to ask the minister whether he can advise us on the extent of the loss of mail which was involved in the weekend fire at the central post office in Montreal, and also the types of mail that were destroyed in that fire?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): The mail that was burned, which consisted of approximately 30,000 letters, was mainly first class mail. Some mail that was damaged was second or third class mail.

An hon. Member: Were there any coupons in it?