

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My supplementary question is to the Postmaster General. Would he consider the capital cost of a man's investment in a car over a seven day period as compared to a five day period?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would think we are getting into debate. I realize that the matter is very important, but I suggest to hon. members that the importance of a matter is not decreased by putting the question on the order paper. If there is urgency I would think we should have the matter debated at the time of adjournment.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, with respect, in view of the circumstances in which the answers have been given I think the Postmaster General's answer is incomplete. If he were to settle the matter now very briefly it could save us ten minutes at ten o'clock.

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, you will note that I spoke of direct, out of pocket expenses, the cost of gas, oil and so on. Obviously in the renegotiation of contracts one takes account of the fact that depreciation is an annual, non-cash cost. I think what bothers most members of this house, and certainly myself, is the basic fact that a great many contracts are given to people at levels which do not allow them to earn a satisfactory living. I think we are quite aware of this. The same situation obtained during the régime of the Conservative party. I think the difference between the present Prime Minister and the former prime minister is that the present Prime Minister has a Postmaster General who is going to investigate these matters.

Mr. McCleave: If that is the attitude we will debate the matter at ten o'clock.

GRAIN

STATEMENT ON RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I have two questions of which notice was taken and to which I should like to give a reply. The first question, asked by the Leader of the Opposition, had to do with the ratification of the international

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grains agreement. All but five countries signatory to this agreement have now ratified it or deposited declarations of provisional ratification. The five which have not done so are Greece, India, Lebanon, Spain and the Vatican City state.

[*Translation*]

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHWESTERN QUEBEC—ACCESS ROAD TO JAMES BAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development.

With regard to northwestern Quebec, is the department thinking of helping with the construction of an access road to James bay?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, the new department which has not been set up but which has none the less started to study the problem of regional development, is considering the problems facing every part of this country, including Abitibi.

[*English*]

AIR CANADA

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the right hon. gentleman in a position to tell the house how soon we may expect an appointment to the position of head of Air Canada?

An hon. Member: As soon as they find a Liberal.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): We have a lot of those. I can only tell the house that this is the subject of very active consideration between some ministers and myself.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): What about Judy?

Mr. Trudeau: We do have some candidates, but they do not include the one the hon. member mentions. I will have an announcement for the house soon.