

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—MEASURES TO PROTECT PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

Following the acts of vandalism carried out as recently as last night in Montreal against mail trucks, new truck drivers and the public, is the department now taking any action to ensure the protection of the public and of property.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, we are in continuing contact with the Montreal police and department officials are investigating this situation which I deplore, as do also all hon. members of this House. We definitely intend to take action against all the guilty parties.

POSSIBLE NATIONAL STRIKE—DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SECURITY CHEQUES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the threat of a nationwide postal strike in May, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether arrangements will be made in order to ensure delivery of social security, family allowance and other cheques before such a strike?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare has already made such arrangements.

NEGOTIATIONS TO AVOID NATIONAL STRIKE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications what kind of negotiations are now underway, what contact he has with the representatives of the union for the purpose of avoiding the strike planned for May 19.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): That is the responsibility of the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

WAGE POSITION OF FORMER LAPALME EMPLOYEES NOW WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): May I ask the Postmaster General what the status is of the four former Lapalme employees who accepted the government's offer of \$3.25 an hour? Will they be given the benefit of the new postal increases or will their wages be frozen at their present level until the others catch up with them?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): I think the hon. member might address his question to the President of the Treasury Board.

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—QUOTA PRIVILEGES FOR SUNFLOWER-PLANTED LAND

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Since the production of sunflowers has proven to be an alternative to the production of wheat, thus providing a means for the reduction of wheat acreage, and also has the added advantage that it requires no public transportation or storage, will the minister consider adding land in this crop to those special crop lands eligible for quota privileges?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): A great deal of thought has been given to that question and the decision, as the hon. member knows, is that we ought not to encourage diversion into crops where there is a possibility of overproducing with the result that the market is depressed. This is the reason oilseeds were not placed in the category mentioned.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): Since there is no surplus in sunflowers, would the minister consider allowing this crop to be included in the special quotas for this year?

Mr. Olson: As I said, we have given consideration to that question.

WHEAT—GRANTING OF THREE-BUSHEL QUOTA TO CERTAIN DELIVERY POINTS—LACK OF EQUALIZATION

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): My question is addressed to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Wheat Board. Having regard to the severe