

question is to the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Justice. For over a year now the government has had evidence of systematic violations of the Post Office Act by members of the RCMP. The Prime Minister will now, hopefully, be aware of the fact that it is the responsibility of the federal government to prosecute under that particular act.

My supplementary question, then, to the Prime Minister is: What action does the government intend to take to prosecute those persons who have been shown clearly to have violated the Post Office Act. Second, how quickly will the government be acting? Hopefully, it will be with the same kind of speed with which it moved in the case of the prosecution of CUPW leader Jean Claude Parrot.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, in the case of the hearing before the royal commission, I made it clear before—various ministers have also—that we do not intend to act piecemeal as the evidence unrolls and unfolds in front of the commission. Some of these hearings are in camera; others are in public. Some of them are in parts, and they are joined again at later stages.

I am sure that the hon. member would not want the government to take action and prosecute somebody on partial evidence. We have always said that we would not comment on the evidence as it came out in a piecemeal fashion; that we were waiting for the whole report. That remains our position.

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POST OFFICE

MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR AWARDING ROUTE CONTRACTS— REQUEST FOR INCREASE

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac): My question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that the maximum limit for letting postal route contracts without tender is currently \$10,000, and that this maximum amount has not been increased since 1968, could the minister please tell the House whether he will give consideration to raising this limit?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, of course we would like to raise that limit as soon as possible. The hon. member must know that, unfortunately, to do so an amendment must be passed to the Post Office Act. If the hon. member can consult his colleagues and assure me that we could pass such a bill unanimously in a few minutes in Parliament, I would be the first to go ahead with such a measure and have it approved immediately.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

[English]

TOURISM

FUNDING OF PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTRES

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Madam Speaker, given the fact that the Liberal cabinet was sworn in at the beginning of March and that the Prime Minister has not yet seen fit to name the minister who will have responsibility for tourism, an industry that is Canada's sixth largest earner of foreign exchange and one that contributes 5 per cent to the gross national product, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who perhaps may have been briefed on this important aspect of tourism.

It is a well-known fact that the previous government had approved funding for the proposed convention centres in Vancouver and Toronto. Can the minister give his assurance that this government will honour the commitment made in good faith to the cities of Toronto and Vancouver? I ask this question as it is difficult to plan without knowing the basis of funding.

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State, Small Businesses): Madam Speaker, the whole question of the funding of convention or commercial centres throughout Canada is now being reviewed within the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. We shall be in a position to put before our cabinet colleagues a document for discussion purposes within the coming weeks.

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[English]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

STEPS TO ENSURE TALENTED CANADIAN ARTISTS REMAIN IN CANADA

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State: in his absence, I will direct it to the Acting Secretary of State. Two weeks ago, a Canadian film animator, working for the National Film Board, won an academy award for his film "Every Child", yet this person was laid off by the National Film Board because of budget restraints. He has not been able to find a job in the Canadian film industry since last November.

The net result is that talented Canadians end up leaving Canada, taking with them valuable resources and further weakening the Canadian film industry. What steps is the government prepared to take to ensure that talented Canadian artists remain in Canada, and to ensure the continuation and improvement of the Canadian film industry?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I know that my colleague is aware of the situation