

[English]

POST OFFICE—RE-EXAMINATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL ROUTES IN WESTERN
CANADA

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, on May 23 I asked a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde), as reported at page 4019 of *Hansard* in part reads as follows:

In view of the fact that the Hutterian Brethren of Canada take vows of poverty and perpetual poverty, and because they are church-employed, would the minister indicate whether he will present legislation to the House to exempt the Hutterian Brethren of Canada from paying Canada Pension Plan premiums?

This minority group living in western Canada has from time to time been severely criticized for the social position they take, but I should like to submit that this group exists and has set up a society on the basis of what they believe to be right; on the religious beliefs that dictate to them the manner of life that they should lead. So the question is—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair is wondering about the matter being raised by the hon. member. The question which appears on the order tonight has to do with a rural post office. I am wondering if there is some confusion that we can sort out. Perhaps the hon. member will explain the situation.

Adjournment Debate

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, if you check the record you will see that the question for the adjournment debate has to do with a rural post office—and I thank the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) for being here—but if you look at *Hansard* for May 23 you will note that Mr. Speaker suggested that because of the brevity and urgency of this matter it would be the topic under discussion at the adjournment debate, and not the matter of the post office. When I checked with the Clerk at the table I also indicated this. I am sorry about the confusion, but that is the issue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The difficulty that arises now is that there might not be anybody here to answer the hon. member's question. If he wants to proceed with the matter, he may do so at the risk of not receiving a reply satisfactory to him. Perhaps a member for the government benches might attempt to answer the question.

An hon. Member: Mr. Latulippe will answer you.

Mr. Epp: I realize that the hon. gentleman might feel he is an expert in many areas, but I doubt if that is the case in respect of the Hutterian Brethren of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could defer this question until the next adjournment debate, which will be on Thursday.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): There is no problem in respect of the request of the hon. member.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.