

*Inquiries of the Ministry*INQUIRY AS TO REPORT BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON HOLIDAY AND SEVERANCE PAY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he has yet succeeded in getting a report from the advisory committee of the unemployment insurance commission on the matter of severance pay, which affects many people in Elliot Lake?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say I have not.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD—INQUIRY AS TO
REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alan Macnaughton (Mount Royal): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister now in a position to advise the house whether he has yet received the report of the national energy board on the recent applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity under part III of the National Energy Board Act?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): A somewhat similar question was asked on March 23. My answer appears at page 2352 of *Hansard*, and remains the same.

Mr. Macnaughton: I have another question. Can the minister advise the house as to when he expects the decisions on the applications to export gas under part VI of the act?

Mr. Churchill: My answer remains the same, Mr. Speaker, as at page 2352 of *Hansard*.

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): May I ask the minister this question as a result of reading his earlier answer, to which he referred in answer to a question a moment ago. Will he explain to the house which type of application he was referring to? Was he referring to applications under part III or part VI of the act?

Mr. Churchill: I was referring to all applications that had been received.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

NEWFOUNDLAND—REPORTED LOSS OF MAIL BAG

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): I wish to ask a question of the Postmaster General. According to the Newfoundland *Herald* of April 3 it appears that a mail bag containing several hundred applications for 1958 income

[Mr. Starr.]

tax refunds has been lost or stolen between St. John's and Ottawa, thus creating confusion and delaying reimbursement to the people of Newfoundland. Can the minister inform the house how, when and where this mail bag was lost or stolen, and can he assure the people of Newfoundland that they will not have to suffer too long from the disorganization of the Post Office Department?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): I congratulate the hon. member on his foresight, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that the date on which he referred to this bag as having been stolen is about a week in the future, namely April 3.

Mr. Denis: It relates to the 1958 income tax returns.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Denis: It relates to the 1958-59 income tax returns, the previous year's income tax returns. This is as it appears in the Newfoundland weekly *Herald* of April 3.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member advise me of the date of the newspaper?

Mr. Denis: The newspaper report is 1960, but it relates to income tax returns of 1958-59.

Mr. Hees: The hon. member had better get a new writer; he is not getting his laughs.

Mr. Denis: May I explain that this is a weekly newspaper and they put on the date of the week in which it appears. Sometimes they appear a couple of days ahead of time. Mr. Speaker will not blame me if it is brand new.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): If the hon. member will finally get the problem sorted out so that he understands it, I shall be glad to answer the question.

Mr. Denis: It is not a question of whether I understand it. It is a question of whether the Postmaster General understands it.

HOUSING

C.M.H.C.—STATEMENT RESPECTING DIRECT
LOANS TO BUILDERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): The hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Garland) has asked me to describe in more detail the policy to be followed this year by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in making direct mortgage loans under the National Housing Act.

I wish first to say how grateful I am for the opportunity afforded by the hon. member, and I thank him for giving me notice of the question. Although I made every effort to