

*Inquiries of the Ministry***POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****REPORTED CONVEYANCE OF RUSSIAN
PROPAGANDA MATERIAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. According to Ottawa city councillor Murray Heit, as reported in this morning's newspapers, a Russian review containing outrageous propaganda is on every newsstand. Has the Post Office Department an organization set up for the purpose of allowing or forbidding this kind of review to go through the mails? If not, does the minister intend to set up such an organization?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, it is not the function, responsibility or, as far as I am concerned, the desire of the department to engage in the censorship of material that passes through the mails, and we take a very firm stand in this regard. If the courts wish to declare something to be improper mailable material, we will respect the views of the courts, but I am not going to accept the hon. member's suggestion that the department or myself should make censors out of ourselves.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is not the view of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Denis: Can the minister tell the house whether in some other department there is an official who has any control over this Russian magazine going through the mails?

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): To the best of my knowledge, no, sir.

[Later:]

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the one I put to the Postmaster General. I should like to know what facilities the government has for examining, scrutinizing and detecting magazines such as this review, if there is nobody in the Post Office Department who does this.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is posing a question which might be better brought up on the estimates of the department. It is not of such great urgency, and as the practice has been going on for some years it seems to me it is a proper subject for comment on the estimates.

**CHRISTMAS OVERTIME WORK—INQUIRY AS TO
METHOD OF PAYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. I am informed that additional work performed by postal employees in the Christmas and

[Mr. Speaker.]

New Year period will be paid for by means of holidays instead of cash, whereas in the past employees had the choice of being paid either by means of holidays or by cash. Will the minister tell the house the government's views on that subject?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to tell the house first that there has been a great deal less overtime on the part of our permanent staff this Christmas than ever before, owing largely to increased efficiency in operation and certain changes which have been made. That overtime which has occurred on the part of our permanent staff has previously been either liquidated or paid in cash, largely at the option of the local postmasters. This year we have encouraged them in every possible case to liquidate it by means of time off during the month of January rather than making payments, in the interests of efficiency and economy.

AGRICULTURE**REPORTED TRANSFER OF PLANT PRODUCTS
DIVISION INSPECTION SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. It has been brought to the attention of the Fort William chamber of commerce that the inspection service of the plant products division of the federal government may be transferred from the lakehead to Winnipeg. Can the minister inform the house whether such a move is being contemplated by his department?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I received notice of this question, for which I wish to thank the hon. member. I can assure the hon. member that no such move is being contemplated.

TRADE**RED CHINA—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR
SALE OF WHEAT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Trade and Commerce. After the long Christmas adjournment can the ministers indicate to the house what progress may have been made in discussions with trade representatives from China with respect to the sale of western wheat?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I can say at this time is that discussions are in progress.