

Inquiries of the Ministry

which should have been asked of the Minister of National Revenue, with respect to the dumping of oil in Canada from Venezuela. Can the minister tell us whether that situation has been investigated and, if so, what he has found?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): Crude oil comes in free of duty if it is brought in for the purpose of refining in Canada but it is, of course, subject to dumping duties if it is established that the oil is dumped in accordance with the terms of the Customs Tariff Act.

Investigations are being carried out from time to time, in any event, with regard to these various matters, but allegations to this effect have been made and officials of my department are investigating this particular matter at this time.

Mr. Coldwell: But the dumping is somewhat due to the underpaid labour or the exploitation of labour by these powerful United States and international corporations.

Mr. Nowlan: Of course the hon. gentleman will realize that dumping has a technical reference dealing with domestic prices as distinguished from the prices laid down here.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**REQUESTS FOR IMPROVED POSTAL FACILITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Postmaster General. In view of the needs of the city, and in view of the growing numbers of unemployed, could the minister tell me if a post office is going to be built in the city of East Kildonan?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I know that every minister has in mind the unemployment situation in Canada and is doing what he can to assist in obtaining fuller employment. However, such decisions must also take into account the actual needs of the country, so that whatever action is taken will both contribute to employment and will meet such needs.

When I was in Winnipeg last fall, knowing the interest of the hon. member and others, I personally took a look at this situation so I would be informed on it. I do realize the desire of East Kildonan for a post office since, while East Kildonan is part of greater Winnipeg, it is also a separate city, and most communities feel that an important part of their community facilities is the provision of their own post office.

On the other hand, the primary concern of the Post Office Department itself is the provision to all communities of the best possible postal facilities; and sometimes, when a community is part of a greater metropolitan area, as is the case with East Kildonan, it will mean that a postal station will be erected to serve two or more communities.

East Kildonan is served under these circumstances at the present time, and it has an excellent postal service. It has letter carrier delivery to the homes, it has three sub-postoffices which give all postal facilities to the people of the area, and not very far distant from its municipal boundaries there are postal stations serving this entire area of Winnipeg.

The department will continue to review the situation so that—

Mr. McIlraith: How about observing the rules in giving your answer?

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):—immediately the postal service would be materially improved through the provision of such a building one would be provided or would be recommended, but at the moment there does not seem to be any immediate need for it.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): I should like to ask the Postmaster General a related question. Is the minister satisfied with the postal facilities in Wesleyville, where it is often not possible for both the mail and the patrons to be in the office at the same time; and would he urge the Minister of Public Works to get on with work on this building in order to provide badly needed local employment?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington has raised this question with me on one or two occasions, and I am glad to inform him that I hope to be able to make good his great neglect of this community during the period while he was a member of the former government.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thank the hon. gentleman most sincerely, and I know my constituents will understand.

Mr. Green: I only hope they will.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): If representations are being made, I would draw the attention of the minister to the likeness to the black hole of Calcutta in Davidson, Saskatchewan, where in the summer employees of the post office have to work under conditions which must do harm to their general health.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about black Monday and black other days