

from different beef producing organizations, the packing industry and provincial people who just recently had a meeting to put together some recommendations in respect of a beef grading system, and I am sure that group will also take this into consideration.

**BEEF—ALLEGED UNJUST PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN
GRADE A AND GRADE C**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he would also look into the problem in respect of the wide and unjust differential between the prices of grade A and grade C beef, and if that differential continues to exist will steps be taken to see that the difference is passed on to the consumer so that larger profits are not made by packing houses and distributors on the lower grades of beef than are made on the higher grades?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this will all be taken into consideration.

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POST OFFICE

**SUGGESTED REVIEW OF POLICIES RELATING TO PURCHASES
OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF STAMPS**

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact a postmaster in Edmonton recently accepted a phony certified cheque for \$48,000 worth of eight-cent stamps and no prior effort was made to identify the purchasers before this purchase took place for such a large sum of money, will the Postmaster General assure the House that his department will review its policies with reference to the purchase of postage stamps in such large quantities by means other than cash transactions?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for his suggestion. The general rule is, of course, that any large purchase must be made by a certified cheque. The matter is now in the hands of the RCMP.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact it is customary for postmasters to receive a commission on the volume of business conducted, what commission would the Postmaster General suggest would be in order for the sale of these \$48,000 worth of stamps?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I would not even by inference want to leave the impression that this postmaster was anything more than an innocent dupe in the whole affair.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**REQUEST FOR NAMES OF FIRMS NOT PASSING ON SALES TAX
REDUCTIONS TO CONSUMERS**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Consumer and

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Corporate Affairs has already indicated to the press that he knows the names of companies which are not passing on sales tax reductions to consumers and hence are profiteering, and in view of the fact that the release of these names would now have the maximum punitive effect at this time of high Christmas shopping, will he now give the names of these firms?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have never given names and it is too early to predict what the findings of the investigation we are carrying out will be.

● (1450)

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister when he proposes to make this release since he has already indicated to the press that he knows the names of the companies which are not passing on savings to consumers. I apologize, since the translation system was not working for the first part of the minister's reply, that I did not catch it.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I have provided general information in reply to a question a reporter had asked me, but I repeat that it is too early at this stage to predict what the findings will be. Therefore, we shall have to wait until the investigation is completed before we can identify firms or draw final conclusions.

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[English]

HOUSING

**SUGGESTION NEW LEGISLATION IS MERELY AN EXTENSION
OF ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. I note that he has been making statements outside the House in respect of new policies, probably in an effort to compensate for the inflation which the government fails to combat in respect of the high cost of housing. Would the minister be willing to concede that the new housing legislation to be introduced before Christmas or shortly is merely an extension of the Assisted Home Ownership Program and that in fact there is little new about his proposal with the exception of an increase in subsidization which probably will not keep pace with the ever-increasing spiral in the high cost of housing?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to mention to the hon. member that the information he took as announced was given in my intervention on the budget debate to which I wish he had listened because he might have learned about our housing policy. I would not deny that much of this new legislation to be introduced will be an extension of the assisted home ownership program and the limited dividend rental accommodation program which the hon. member keeps on asking us to forget. They happen to be the most successful pieces of legislation ever brought in,