

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

was announced in the House about a week ago when we decided to appoint Mr. Goldenberg as mediator in this dispute. I indicated at that time that the government would await his decision before deciding what our policy would be.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Without being presumptuous, might I suggest to the Prime Minister that he acquaint the Postmaster General with the government policy?

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LACK OF FOOD FRAUD PROSECUTIONS**

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that, according to the reply given to my written question No. 20 on the Order Paper, during the fiscal years from 1966 to that part of 1969 when the matter of economic fraud in food and food products came under the responsibility of the Food and Drug Directorate there were several dozen prosecutions, would the minister undertake to make an early statement concerning why, since this matter was transferred to his department in early 1969, there were no prosecutions up to November 14 last year?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to look at the answer first.

**INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED KICKBACKS IN DAIRY INDUSTRY**

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the demand by a union leader in Toronto recently that the government should inquire into the possibility of kickbacks in the dairy industry as between dairies and retail outlets, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether the government or the minister's department is prepared to undertake such an investigation?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the statement. If it was so important to the union leader one would have thought he would send it to me. I would advise him to do so with whatever supporting evidence he has.

**Mr. Gleave:** Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister whether he has made any inquiries or has

[Mr. Trudeau.]

concerned himself with the charges by the Ontario Food Council in late 1969 that buyers for wholesale stores were named as receiving kickbacks in the food industry in that province.

**Mr. Basford:** There were consultations between my officers and officers of the Ontario Food Council.

**TAXATION****WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—PROTEST COUPONS—ALLEGED CLOSING OF MAIL BOX OF COLIN BROWN**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, on Friday, in the absence of the Minister of Communications, I asked a question in connection with Colin Brown who has paternity for some 57 advertisements which appeared in the press across Canada analysing the white paper. He has stated that his post office box in Ottawa has been closed, and that the coupons which have caused so much irascibility on the part of the government are being returned to the individuals who sent them, with the exception of those that are addressed to a Member of Parliament. Could the minister say whether this extraordinary order was made?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I wrote a very polite letter to Mr. Colin Brown advising him that I considered the use to which he was putting the box was an abuse of the privilege of boxholders. In effect Mr. Colin Brown had taken out a box in his own name and was inviting the world to address replies, through his own box number, to all hon. members of this House who have boxes of their own. I also stated in the letter that I would be quite pleased to discuss this with him and asked him to reply in seven days. I have not yet heard from him—

**An hon. Member:** He hasn't received the letter yet.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Kierans:** Well, Mr. Speaker, he apparently knows that his box is closed, which is what counts in this case. I am quite willing to discuss this with Mr. Brown, but I must say that all members of this House have suffered a great deal from that fact that people all across the country are addressing letters to Mr. Brown's box when it is difficult, particularly in respect of opposition members, to know who their member is. This involves a