

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Has he received a letter from the Quebec minister of agriculture, Hon. Mr. Vincent requesting financial assistance for farmers in certain areas of the province of Quebec who are suffering considerable losses again this year due to unfavourable weather conditions?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****MEDICARE—REQUEST OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR AMENDMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister received a brief from the Canadian Medical Association, and if so will the government consider amending clause 4, sub-clause (c) of Bill C-227 from 90 per cent to 30 per cent for purposes of interim coverage in accordance with the terms of the brief?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am sure the hon. member is anticipating discussion of a bill which now is before the house, and which I am sure will be discussed later on this afternoon.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****REPORTED INTENTION TO REMOVE ROYAL COAT OF ARMS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and has reference to a number of answers given to the house on Friday last by the Prime Minister to the effect that the royal coat of arms is to be removed from mail trucks, mail bags, and so on. Could the Prime Minister tell the house whether it is the intention of the government to remove the royal insignia from all government buildings, correspondence, publications, and even from the Speaker's chair?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the announced decision to remove the word "Royal" from "Royal Navy", has the Prime Minister looked up the record when a similar view was being expressed during the St. Laurent administration and it was decided that constitutionally under the British North America Act the change could not be made and accordingly no change was made at that time?

**Mr. Pearson:** Records are always very interesting, Mr. Speaker, and I will be glad to look up this one.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I wish you would.

**Mr. MacDonald (Prince):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Prime Minister tells us that it is not the intention of the government at the present time to take such action, could he tell us when the decision was taken to take such action with regard to the Post Office?

**Mr. Pearson:** To remove misunderstanding in this matter, Mr. Speaker, the Postmaster General will be in a position to make a short statement in a day or two which will remove some of the misunderstandings that have been created.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There is no misunderstanding at all. It is very wrong.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****EVIDENCE BEFORE COMMITTEES BY SERVING OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman advise us, in view of the large number of committees which are sitting and so that members may estimate the value of evidence given, if he subscribes to the view of the Minister of National Defence that serving officers and departmental officials can only appear before such committees with the consent of the minister, and evidence given by such witnesses must conform to departmental policy irrespective of what the facts may be?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I shall be glad to look into that question, Mr. Speaker.