

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I think all hon. members know that Canada is in the forefront of those nations seeking a liberalization of trade, and we will continue to be so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATION INTO GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Postmaster General. In view of the continuing unrest among postal employees about the conditions under which they work, when can we expect the tabling of the Montpetit report?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, we have not yet received the Montpetit report. We were expecting it on the 13th of this month, but my most recent inquiries reveal that it will be received definitely by the 18th. So it will be Monday or Tuesday at the latest.

[Translation]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN FAMILY ALLOWANCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Considering that the government is trying its utmost to bring the income of elderly citizens in line with the cost of living by guaranteeing a minimum of \$105 a month instead of \$75, could the minister tell us whether or not he intends to increase, in the same proportion and for the same reason, the family allowances of \$6 and \$8 a month paid to Canadian children under 16 years of age?

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. member to put his question on the order paper.

[English]

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO APPLICATION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, representing as I do a riding with the heaviest ethnic grouping west of Toronto, I claim your indulgence to allow me to direct

Inquiries of the Ministry

a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the principle in the immigration policy which he announced verbally and in the white paper of non-discrimination on the basis of race and colour, I would like to ask him whether this will be the policy followed by his department prior to the introduction of the new legislation.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, right now there are differences between the sponsorship rights of Europeans and those of Asians. This is in our law and of course it cannot be changed before the law itself is changed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO SALARY INCREASES FOR CLERICAL STAFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether he would undertake to look into the long delay in the salary increases announced under class B, which includes the secretarial staff of the House of Commons.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Without accepting the preamble to the question, I will be glad to look into the matter.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE

The house resumed, from Thursday, October 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill C-227, to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plans, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Rynard.

• (12:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned last night, I was dealing with the excessive cost of such a medicare plan. It is expected that in 1971, it would cost \$4,481 million, of which 85 per cent would be paid by the various governments. It must be emphasized that governments would then have to seek additional revenue without, for all that, crushing the taxpayers, who are already overburdened with all kinds of taxes and contributions.