

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

on April 20 to discuss the transfer of federal cultural programs to the provincial government?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I agreed to meet the Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs, at his request. Afterwards, he sent me a letter to make it clear which subjects he wanted to discuss and there was not the slightest mention made of the transfer of the funds for the cultural activities of the federal government.

[*English*]

**Mr. Allmand:** Could the minister tell us what is on the agenda for that meeting with the Quebec minister?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pelletier:** As we have not agreed on any agenda, I am only able to reveal the suggestions made to me by the Minister of Cultural Affairs of Quebec, in a letter of a confidential nature. And as we did not have the opportunity to discuss the matter together, I could not reveal its contents.

[*English*]

#### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the critical cash shortage among prairie grain growers, would the minister consider allowing them to pay their income tax with surplus grain?

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

##### REPLACEMENT OF U.S. BY CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister tell the house where the United States armed forces are now located which are to be replaced by Canadian armed forces? I refer of course to the Prime Minister's reply to questions by members of the press on April 3 last.

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### IDENTIFICATION OF CITIZENS FOR PASSPORT PURPOSES

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Secretary of State. Has his attention been

drawn to the widespread confusion and discontent over the new regulations concerning proof of Canadian citizenship for passport purposes? If so, is he considering changes in those regulations?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that I have received representations during a trip in the West, about the procedures now applicable to the issuance of a passport to a Canadian citizen. However, the issuance of passports is not the responsibility of my department, but rather that of the Department of External Affairs, and it is up to that department to decide the kind of proof of identity it may demand before issuing a passport to a Canadian citizen.

[*English*]

**Mr. Saltsman:** Has the Secretary of State not examined the regulations concerning proof of Canadian citizenship, which I believe originated in his department?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):**

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister and his colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs could streamline their procedure in order to eliminate the great delay brought about because of the delays in the postal service, which make handling of passports almost impossible? Most members spent their Easter holidays as passport expeditors.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

##### REQUEST BY NEW BRUNSWICK FOR CONFERENCE ON FINANCE

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister concerning the communication from Premier Robichaud before Easter with regard to the dire financial situation in New Brunswick, and any further communications. Would the Prime Minister state the nature of his reply to any correspondence, telephone inquiries of other communications from the Premier of New Brunswick? Does the Prime Minister realize that by his silence he is destroying whatever credibility there is left in the statement by Premier Robichaud? The Prime Minister is the fourth person to call him a liar by remaining silent.