

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the hon. member is not restating a question he asked last Thursday or Friday. If not, the minister might wish to reply.

Mr. Harding: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it was not the same question. It was along similar lines, but the information given at the time was that the department was considering it. I am just wondering whether they have considered it to the point where they can indicate when an answer can be given.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is very tenacious. I think he is aware that the government has already advised the City of Trail that we will repair the wall which protects the city from the Columbia River, which wall had been breached. As to the other application made by the Mayor of Trail, and I think by Premier Bennett of British Columbia to the Prime Minister, I have advised the hon. member that it is being studied in conjunction with damage claims from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and we would expect a decision will be taken shortly.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**EFFECT OF RATE CHANGES ON NON-PROFIT PUBLICATIONS**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the laconic Postmaster General. It concerns the increasing number of trade union and other non-profit publications going out of business on account of increased postal rates. Can he advise if he is prepared yet to take another look at this serious matter, with a view to forestalling further shrinkage in the publishing industry?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I think I have replied on many occasions that the labour journals and indeed many other non-profit publications could recover all of the increases in the postage rates by a very nominal increase in their subscription rates, sometimes as low as something in the order of 17 cents or 25 cents a year. I reiterate my belief that I do not think these journals can expect the postmen, the whole 48,000 of them, to continue to subsidize these journals.

AGRICULTURE**DAIRYING—COMPLAINTS FROM WESTERN PRODUCERS**

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of

[Mr. Harding.]

Agriculture. It arises from a communication sent by the Manitoba Dairy Association calling on the minister to give urgent consideration to a rethinking of national dairy policy so that western Canadian dairy producers will no longer be discriminated against in terms of quota allocations. Is the minister giving consideration to this request?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have had a number of discussions about this and I am of the same opinion that I expressed to the hon. member several days ago, that the Canadian dairy policy does not discriminate against western producers.

Mr. Schreyer: As a supplementary question, can the minister say whether it is true that 8 million pounds of quota allocations have been removed from western Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked by the hon. member is clearly argumentative and out of order.

[Later:]

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I believe Your Honour would want to give a dispassionate and fair ruling on what I submit is a point of privilege. When the Minister of Agriculture states repeatedly in this house that national dairy policy is not discriminatory in its effect—we are not talking about intent—upon dairy producers in western Canada, and when I say to him that we have proof that in two years 8 million pounds in quotas have been removed from western Canada, I believe Your Honour should want to regard this as a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I certainly cannot regard that as a question of privilege but rather as a question of debate. The hon. member says there is discrimination and the minister says there is no discrimination. We could go on in that way for a long time. This is clearly a point for debate and on that basis I have to rule that the hon. member's question as asked cannot be posed at this time.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICARE—DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. As the executive of the Canadian Medical Association have for four months been asking pretty steadily for an