

served by that carrier. I was as astonished as the hon. member to hear the Leader of the Opposition suggest that he would remove the service from them.

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POST OFFICE

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST MEMBERS OF CUPW INVOLVED IN STRIKE

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that Post Office management has been sending letters to hundreds of individual members of CUPW threatening disciplinary action and saying that the threatening letter will be attached to their personal files, in view of the fact that this is not limited just to the leadership of CUPW but in some areas to the total local membership of CUPW, in view of the fact that this action can only be seen as a harassment of the employees, and in view of the fact that the Postmaster General has promised that there will be no harassment, can the Postmaster General tell this House if he was aware that these letters were, indeed, being sent out to thousands of members, and can he also assure us that instructions from his office will now go out to Post Office management asking that these letters be not placed in the files of the workers?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, when I listen to a question like that, I wonder if the attitude of the hon. member is not one of protecting the workers who got involved in illegal activities or actions disrupting the postal service.

Mr. Broadbent: Come off it.

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I say to you what I said very clearly to the news media, that there was no witch-hunt at the Post Office, but there will be justice and that is what we intend to do.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lamontagne: I would like to quote one passage of the letter we sent to many of our workers:

You will be advised of either any administrative action or disciplinary action which may be taken in regard to your action.

There is an article in the collective agreement which tells us that we must send these letters within ten days of whatever accusation or allegation we have against the workers. In cases where there is no allegation or accusation, these letters will be withdrawn. We had ten days to do it and I think in the name of justice we had to do it.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that in all modern industrial relationships in the private sector after a prolonged strike, modern management never proceeds with a witch-hunt and sending out letters as the Postmaster General is doing, can

he give the assurance that these letters will not remain on the files of the CUPW members across this country permanently?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, obviously, we are talking about one union, CUPW. In answering the question put by the hon. member, I would ask him to read the constitution of this union, which constitution says there is to be no fraternization with management. They negate completely negotiations or communication with management. How can we—

Mr. Rodriguez: Answer the question.

Mr. Lamontagne: I am answering the question, but when talking about a union like this, and when we hear on television and read in the papers what their leaders are saying, and even what Mr. McDermott, the President of CLC, has said about this, I wonder if the hon. member is not part of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

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SPORTS

CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN MOSCOW OLYMPICS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). On May 24 I wrote to the minister, and I have not yet had the courtesy of a reply to that letter. I would like to read part of the letter in order to put my question in perspective:

Our own House last week passed a unanimous resolution expressing our concern for the abridgement for freedom of thought and expression in the Soviet Union as demonstrated by those trials.

In view of the upcoming 1980 Olympics to be held in Moscow, could you tell me whether there are any plans in your department to re-examine our country's position vis-à-vis participation in the Moscow Olympics?

Would the minister answer that question?

● (1502)

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the hon. member has not had a reply. I will see that that is done immediately.

In the matter of the question, however, I am quite prepared to accept that there be sport boycotts when related to sport, but when the matter is outside the realm of sport I do not feel the sport should be used as an instrument through which retaliation is executed.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, in the interests of consistency—and I know this government would always want to be consistent—is the minister prepared to apply that policy to all other countries where discrimination is going on?

Mrs. Campagnolo: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I have been told the Russian Olympic team is more than one-third Jewish, I think the hon. member's question is not relevant.