

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, we believe it is important for the federal government to have a clear and obvious presence at this function. We are making arrangements for the rental of the automotive building and are gathering together all the federal government exhibitors who for many years have exhibited at the CNE. This year, for the one-hundredth anniversary, we will have them gathered together in one building.

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POST OFFICE

UNFULFILLED ORDERS FOR OLYMPIC COINS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Because at least one Olympic coin dealer ignored a double-registered letter and telephone calls related to undelivered, prepaid Olympic coin orders, plus the fact that some of these dealers are rumoured to be on the verge of bankruptcy, will the government accept responsibility for supplying the coins ordered or refunding the purchase price to customers, as they operate under federal legislation?

[Translation]

Hon. J.-Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that it is federal legislation, I do not believe that the government has any responsibility with regard to the financial predicament of this Olympic coin dealer. Therefore I think the only thing to do is to try to find a way to help those who seem to have been cheated and to assist them.

[English]

Mr. Towers: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Due to the fact that Canadian Olympic coin dealers are not filling orders for which they have received payment—in some cases over a year ago—can the Postmaster General assure this House that the same situation did not occur in other countries?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the hon. gentleman that this question is under review in my department and a decision will be taken soon.

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SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES—LACROSSE DEMONSTRATION BY NATIVE TEAM

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). Since the Commonwealth Games will be holding a lacrosse demonstration in Edmonton this summer, and a native

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team has not been invited to participate, could the minister use her good offices to intervene in this situation?

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I have already intervened. There was a suggestion that one native team from the St. Regis reserve should participate in the Senior B championships. They declined because they did not wish to attend the Commonwealth Games but would rather attend the Senior B championships to be held this year in British Columbia. I am investigating the possibility of a midget team demonstrating techniques of lacrosse at the Commonwealth Games. This is not yet settled.

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POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CLOSING OF POST OFFICE BOX LOBBIES AFTER WORKING HOURS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. It concerns a disturbing rumour. Can the minister advise whether his department is giving consideration to closing all post office box lobbies after regular working hours?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Department of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker. I think this question should be addressed to my colleague, the Postmaster General, but certainly I am not aware of any policy in our department to do that.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Postmaster General? Is there any truth in the rumour that the Post Office department is giving consideration to closing all post office box lobbies after regular working hours?

Hon. J.-Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no foundation to that rumour.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. RODRIGUEZ—ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF HON. MEMBER

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, about a week ago, on Wednesday, March 8, I raised a question of privilege relating to alleged electronic surveillance of myself by one Warren Hart. When Your Honour replied to me on that date you made comments which gave me guidance in preparing the motion which I am now prepared to introduce. If you find that I have a prima facie case of privilege I would ask that you put this motion to the House.