

very excellent example. All this is nothing new. It is simply following the principles started by the minister's predecessor.

Mr. Chrétien: When you were a minister, I was still in college. That was a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Despite the fact there is great liberty during the oral question period, there must be some sense of the present somewhere in the question.

* * *

POST OFFICE

LOSS OF ASHES OF LATE MICHAEL KLOCHKO

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Has the post office yet located the ashes of the late Michael Klochko which were lost in the mail two months ago while making the 50 mile trip from Grimsby to Toronto?

● (1420)

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): No, unfortunately. However, the parcel would have been made safer for the sake of another 90 cents. That is why we have had registered mail for over 100 years.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA—POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR FOOD AID

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the widespread famine in India, the worst for decades, may I ask whether the government of India has made any request to the government of Canada for food aid?

Hon. Allan MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There has been no formal request with respect to food aid. Yesterday, however, I did have occasion to speak briefly with the Indian High Commissioner and the question was raised in a particular context.

Mr. Ritchie: Has the government of India indicated that Canada should request to supply food to the starving people, as was indicated to Mr. Kissinger that the U.S.A. should request to supply such food on his visit to New Delhi?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Kissinger was not mentioned.

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CRASH OF ARMED FORCES PLANE IN MIDDLE EAST—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. The hon. gentleman's parliamentary secretary provided me with some information about the unfortunate crash of a Buffalo aircraft assigned to UNEF and I wish to follow up this matter. Do both the Canadian and the United Nations reports on the incident disclose that there was a gap of some two and a half minutes in the communications tape between the Damascus control tower and the aircraft? When may one expect the United Nations' report and our own NDHQ report to be made public so that the families of the men who were killed might have some reassurance about this tragedy?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): The reports to which the hon. member refers are in the process of being studied. However, the United Nations' Report has not reached us and I cannot name a date for its arrival.

[Later:]

Mr. Fairweather: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not often raise questions of privilege, as Your Honour knows, but I think the Minister of National Defence would like an opportunity to correct the incorrect answer he gave me. My information from his parliamentary secretary is that the United Nations' Report has, in fact, been received. I know the minister has been away, but I would like the record to be straight. This is a very grave matter and there are unpleasant aspects to it that I think should be cleared up.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct. I have been informed that the United Nations report has very recently been received and is now being studied, together with our own report.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

TURKEYS—INCREASE IN NUMBER IN COLD STORAGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture and it arises from the present sizeable build-up of turkeys in storage in Canada. What does the government intend to do about managing these turkeys stocks? I ask this question because during the first part of October there were some 77 million pounds of turkeys in storage as compared with some 46 million pounds in storage in October of last year and 16 million pounds in September of last year.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Not long ago, Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation with one of the people who is concerned about turkey storage. As we know, many turkeys were sold over the Thanksgiving weekend—I do not have the figures with me. I know that some were sold as loss leaders below cost. Many birds were sold at lower prices than they were ten years ago,