

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, we are taking all possible and necessary steps to solve the problem as quickly as possible.

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[English]

### WELFARE

#### FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN—PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL AID

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. With regard to the need for increasing welfare payments, particularly in the poorer provinces, and recalling the Prime Minister's remarks about the 50 per cent cost-sharing arrangement under the Canada Assistance Plan, I wonder whether the minister has had any indication from the poorer provinces concerning whether additional assistance needs to be provided in order that adequate welfare payments can be made?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, no particular representation has been made in this regard. Discussions have taken place in the general review of social problems, but I have not received any special representations lately.

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### POST OFFICE

#### REMOVAL OF ROYAL CIPHER, E-II, FROM MAILBOXES AND VEHICLES

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I would have directed it to the Postmaster General had he been here. It has to do with the removal of the Royal cipher, E-II from Royal mail pillar boxes and post office vehicles in recent days. Was that done as a result of cabinet action or was it done administratively by the department of the Postmaster General?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would have to consult the minister on this. I have no recollection that it was done in cabinet. It is possible that it could have happened in some cabinet committee that would have escaped me but I rather think not. The only communication I had with the Postmaster General on this general subject was a few months ago when he told me that he intended to publish special stamps, the largest ever published in Canada, to commemorate the reign of Her Majesty Elizabeth II.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Machiavellian definition of respect for the monarchy as just revealed by the Prime Minister is difficult of interpretation. I ask him simply, was the Queen's cipher removed from the Royal mail in order to exemplify the newly-found devotion of the government for Her Majesty following her visit?

**Mr. Trudeau:** On the contrary, had we intended to remove the symbols of the monarchy we would not have

### Oral Questions

proceeded in this way. We would not have invited Her Majesty, and I take it she would not have come, to visit Canada twice at the invitation of the government in the past year, and she would not have been as well received and as happy about her visit as she is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

● (1440)

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister will be able to answer this question. Was it with government approval or was it left to the Postmaster General to do what I have suggested has been done in recent months? Surely the Prime Minister does not suggest that removing any suggestion of the monarchy is a means of showing the government's devotion to that institution?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will read the blues he will realize that he has repeated his question practically word for word—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am not getting an answer.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and that my first answer gave the whole truth and nothing but the truth on the question he asked.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** You have never done that in your life.

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### BILL OF RIGHTS

#### SUGGESTED ACTION TO EMBODY IN CONSTITUTION

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the fact the majority decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Lavell case has cast serious doubts on the efficacy of the Canadian Bill of Rights to protect Canadians against discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion and race, and in light of the Prime Minister's lifelong concern about a constitutional bill of rights, will he now renew the efforts of the government to obtain a consensus so that we may obtain a constitutional bill of rights available to all Canadians?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the preamble because he correctly states my interest in achieving this end. I can only remind him that the federal government and the provinces went through a great many constitutional conferences between 1968 and 1972—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** And between 1961 and 1962 as well.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and were unable to reach a consensus on the constitutional bill of rights which he suggests and which, of course, we were promoting during that period. It is still government policy to obtain that, but I cannot say there are immediate plans to convene a constitutional conference for that purpose.