

Inquiries of the Ministry

with other countries on this matter, and also give us any alternative proposals planned by the government in order to reach a conclusion to this thorny problem?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I would certainly be glad to take the opportunity to make a report. Perhaps the hon. gentleman might raise the question on my estimates or ask me to make a statement on motions. I would be happy to do so.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACTS FOR PERIOD OF STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Lind (Middlesex): I should like to address my question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the very loose way rural mail carriers were advised with respect to their services during the postal strike and the lack of written instructions in connection therewith, I feel there is a moral obligation on the part of the government—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may ask a question but he cannot make a speech.

Mr. Lind: —I feel that there is a moral obligation on the part of the government to make *ex gratia* payments in the light of these apparent administrative errors.

QUEBEC—POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF MUNICIPAL NAMES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General. Has a decision been taken by the postal authorities in Montreal to replace by numbers such historic municipal names as Lachine, Pointe Claire, Dorval, etc., which are over 300 years old?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I invite the hon. member to place this question on the order paper.

Mr. Rock: Mr. Speaker, the question is urgent because this decision may take effect on October 1.

Hon. Eric Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, a decision has been taken to apply zoning numbers to existing post office addresses, but no decision has been taken, and indeed there is no intention, to take away any historic names. All that happens now in a

large region such as metropolitan Montreal is that the municipality of Pointe Claire, for example, may be divided into seven zones and the address will be Pointe Claire 700, and that is all.

AGRICULTURE

REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING IMPORTATION OF MEAT FROM ARGENTINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received protests from the representatives of either the federation of agriculture or the farm union in respect of the importation of meat from Argentina? Does he propose to take any action to protect their interests?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of letters from many organizations and many individuals in respect of the importation of cooked beef from the Argentine. In reply to the hon. member I would say there has been no change in our health regulations with regard to cooked beef coming from the Argentine. The only amendment was to include "cooked plyofilm wrapped" beef in addition to "cooked canned" beef. The new product is beef that has been boned, cooked and then frozen and packaged in polyethylene wrappers rather than packaged in tins. Its main use will be for industrial purposes, and the importation of this product—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member wants more information he can put a question on the order paper.

CANADA COUNCIL

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF ARTIST FROM NEW YORK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): I should like to preface my question by saying that it is not a criticism of an agency which I hold in high regard. I should like to ask, in view of the constant requests for funds emanating from individuals and organizations of merit throughout Canada, what steps can be taken to prevent the expenditure of money by the Canada Council on such ventures as the subsidization of Ralph Ortiz, the axe wielding artist from New York, whose air fare of \$284 was paid by them to attend his show in Vancouver—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should place this question on the order paper.