

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK APPLICATION FORMS

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue in his capacity as the Minister in charge of Canada Post. Will the Minister confirm or deny reports that, although Canada Post in Metro Toronto refuses to supply application forms to Canadians looking for work, those forms are obtainable by Canada Post employees for use by their friends and relatives? If this reported practice is in effect, will he assure us that this form of corporate incest will be stopped?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for asking that question. Since he first raised the matter with me some weeks ago, I have had the opportunity to speak to officials of the Canada Post Corporation who have informed us as follows. First, application forms for positions being filled through internal competitions are available only to existing post office employees; second, casual work is assigned through Canada Employment Centres for persons listed with them; and third, for members of the public who wish to obtain information or application forms, they may do so by contacting the Canada Post employment centre in each division. The employment centre for the York division is at 21 Front Street. In the Toronto area, forms may also be obtained from one of the three plants in cases of competitions that are open for outside intervention.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister could have written.

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CITIZENSHIP COURTS

PRESS REPORT OF COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Why are he and the Government attempting to intimidate Members of Parliament who use their rights of free speech by having the Government exert retribution on members of MPs' families as was done when the Government did not reappoint Citizenship Court Judge Geraldine Copps? The reason given for that to the press by the Secretary of State was, in the Secretary's words:

You check the record. What her daughter has had to say about the Government.

Why are the Government and the Minister operating in contempt of Parliament when it comes to the rights of Members of Parliament to speak freely in the way one has spoken in this particular case?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would like to—

An Hon. Member: It's not funny.

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. I presume Hon. Members meant the question seriously and would like to hear the answer.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Then stop yelling.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the Hon. Member to pose a serious question to which I could give a serious response. If the Hon. Member thinks that I am in any way about to restrict Members of Parliament, or cast any aspersions on their rights, then the Hon. Member would surely like to lay a charge of some sort. However, an innuendo which appeared in the news media is hardly a source on which to lay such a serious charge. Under those circumstances, I think that is the only response I wish to make.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, when the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* sent reporter Phil Bass to interview the Minister yesterday to see if he would clarify the remarks I have just quoted, why did the Minister add this comment:

—just have a look at her comments—

He was referring to the words of the Hon. Member of Parliament for Hamilton East. How can the Secretary of State find it possible to rise and speak of innuendo while I am speaking about his direct quotes, as reported in the papers, indicating that he and the Government are carrying out a policy of retribution against family members of Members of Parliament who use their rights of free speech, to which they are entitled as Members of Parliament?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will be aware that there has been a campaign mounted and there have been a number of representations made from all sources regarding appointments which Government has the responsibility to make. In the process, in relation to the subject matter about which comments are made, a great deal is said. In the case at hand, I have indicated that the appointment of Judge Copps was terminated—or rather was not terminated but came to—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McLean: If Hon. Members will allow me to continue, her appointment expired. On behalf of the Government, I thanked her for her services. I personally have seen the quality of her experience throughout the years and I feel that it is very unfortunate that, through the pages of the news media, such a fine record of service should somehow be impugned.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!