

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is out of order. (Text):

SUGAR

POSTAL SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO TWO DAILY MAIL DELIVERIES

Mr. Theogene Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Could the minister tell us if he intends to re-establish two mail deliveries a day as he so often requested from his two predecessors?

Hon. Azellus Denis (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, contrary to the statement just made by the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot, I must say that I never promised that mail would be delivered twice a day. I simply reminded the house that the former postmaster general, the Hon. William Hamilton, had made such a promise without keeping it.

LOTTERIES

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF CRIMINAL CODE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Could the minister advise the house whether he intends to propose an amendment to the Criminal Code in order to allow provinces to organize lotteries if they wish to, as has been requested by Mr. Lesage on behalf of the province of Quebec?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has just asked a question which calls for a very complex answer.

When I came to the department, I learned that they had quite a file on this. In due time I intend to study those documents in order to see what should be done. I cannot elaborate further on this matter today.

[Later:]

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Is the Minister of Justice aware of the fact that some hon. members from the province of Quebec have promised that if the Liberals were elected, a Liberal government would establish lotteries?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances, I do not think I could add anything to the answer I have already given. I would have to get more information on the matter.

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO PRICE INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I believe should be addressed to the Minister of Justice, but if it should not I am sure he will correct me and redirect it. Can the minister assure the house that the government is taking appropriate measures to study, and if possible to check, the very marked and continuing increase in the price of sugar in Canada?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I did anticipate this question. The reply is that a study is now proceeding by the director of research in the combines investigation branch of the department. I am informed, however, in a preliminary manner that the question of the increase in the price of sugar in so far as refined sugar is concerned is due in large part to the increase in the price of raw sugar caused, first, by the shortage of crops, and also by the fact that there has been a loss of crops in certain parts of the world from which Canada imports. I am also informed that the increase in the price of refined sugar is proportionate to the increase in the world price of raw sugar. However, when I have a more detailed report I shall be glad to communicate it to the house.

[Later:]

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice which is related to the question asked earlier by the hon. member for New Westminster. I wonder whether the minister, in the investigation which he said he would make, would seek information and inform the house as to why sugar prices appear to be advancing drastically in Canada vis-à-vis much lower prices across the line in the United States?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I tried to indicate in my earlier reply that the information I had was that that was not entirely the case. However, I did add that an investigation was being made by the director of the combines investigations branch, and I will take notice of my hon. friend's question to see if any additional information can be given in that respect.

[Later:]

Mr. Harold W. Danforth (Kent, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the drastic increase in the price of sugar in recent months, is the government now prepared to