

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: The portrait was painted only two years ago. You will have to correct that answer tomorrow.

REPENTIGNY, QUE.—STATEMENT ON
REPORTED THEFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. A few weeks ago I asked him if a burglar alarm was installed in the post office at Repentigny where a theft occurred, and he told me that he would get the information and give it to the house. As a few weeks have passed I hope he now has the information. Second, I also asked the Postmaster General if he intended to have the Royal Canadian Mounted Police inquire into the theft. He could not answer at that time, but I suppose he now has an answer to give to the house.

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): I am sorry for the delay. I brought the answer with me into the house on two or three succeeding days, but I missed the hon. member in his seat and it slipped my mind. The post office, which by the way is not at Repentigny but at Le Gardeur, is a small one with a total revenue over the entire year of perhaps \$1,500. It is located in a private building for which the proprietor is responsible, and under these circumstances we do not instal burglar alarms.

I might say that when the robbery took place the people who operate the post office were in the building, came downstairs and disturbed the thieves at their work, which rather proves that a burglar alarm would have served no useful purpose, with the possible exception that it might have saved the husband of the postmistress from being knocked over the head. There were two thieves at work and when he entered the room he was attracted by one of them escaping through a window. He attempted to stop him and was hit over the head by the other. Both men escaped.

Under the circumstances, and in view of the fact that the Quebec provincial police accept responsibility in such cases, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have not been called in.

Mr. Denis: On a question of privilege, the Postmaster General has been good enough to give me an answer but at the same time he insinuated that he tried to reach me in the house and I was not here. May I add that I miss the Postmaster General more often than he misses me.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It may be a matter of privilege but it is a relatively minor one,

[Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace).]

almost as minor as the question and answer with which we have just been spending time.

A.V. ROE COMPANY

REPORTED EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL IN U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. According to today's *Globe and Mail* 25 Canadian scientists, all formerly with the A.V. Roe Company in Toronto on the Avro project, have been assigned to the Mercury man in space project at Langley Field, Virginia. My question is, are these scientists proceeding there at any expense to the government of Canada?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member's question, I have not seen this article and I will have to check on it. We are keeping a nucleus of engineers and technicians at the Avro plant. Some of this nucleus of technicians are making studies in the United States on different projects, and it might be one or the other; but I will get the information and let the hon. member know.

[Later:]

Mr. O'Hurley: Mr. Speaker, I should like to supplement my reply to the hon. member for Welland. I have been informed that the engineers who are working on the Mercury project are paid 100 per cent by the United States national advanced space agency, and not by Canada.

IMMIGRATION

ITALY—INQUIRY AS TO OPENING OF SECOND
OFFICE TO CLEAR BACKLOG

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of the regrettably huge backlog of would-be immigrants in Italy, the onus for which the minister yesterday so ably pinned upon the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill), is the minister giving any consideration to opening a second office in Italy, perhaps in the south in Naples, in order to clear the backlog?

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, what steps may be taken to deal with the backlog will be made known to the house when the matter has come to a finality.