

Inquiries of the Ministry

in the lobbies of post offices and certain other buildings in which you can put 25 cents and get five 5-cent stamps.

I might say that if at any time any hon. members run across any other cases of these machines that do not work properly the post office would like to know about it.

Mr. Winch: May I ask the minister a supplementary question? I understood the minister to say that the department has obtained or is obtaining machines that will work efficiently to put in airports and other public places. I have been, as the minister perhaps knows or does not know, in touch with the Post Office Department here for almost a year over the matter of an American coming up and selling machines in the province of British Columbia, and in Vancouver in particular, on a basis which I thought was very unfair, because those who purchased and invested their money do not know—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Winch: I am sorry, sir. May I ask this question, because I always abide by your rulings. What is going to happen to Canadian citizens who have invested money in the present machines? Are they going to be actually wiped out? Is there any possibility that Canadian citizens who have invested in the old machines are going to lose their investment?

Mr. Pickersgill: All the machines that are in existence at the present time, except one or two owned by the Post Office Department on an experimental basis, are owned by private individuals. The Post Office Department does not intend to interfere with these machines in any way except in cases where they do things like this one at Jasper. As long as the machine works properly and you get a four-cent stamp for five cents, or whatever the terms may be, and the machine is operated properly the owner will be allowed to go on operating it.

GRAIN**WHEAT—STORAGE AND FINANCING OF 1955 CROP**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if his attention has been drawn to a Canadian Press dispatch in this morning's *Gazette* forecasting a big wheat crop in western Canada, and also stating that countries like India and Turkey are expecting big crops. Will the minister consider seeing that our Canadian farmers are given assistance in providing storage and financing until they are able to sell their 1955 crop?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I think it is a little early to count our blessings in connection with the western wheat crop as much can happen between now and harvest. For the first time in several years the western producer has empty farm storage available for this harvest, and I believe the situation will not cause any greater difficulty than the producer has encountered in the past few harvests.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**STENOGRAPHIC STAFF—AVAILABILITY FOR WORK WITH CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Speaker: On Thursday the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough) asked the following question as reported on page 6108 of *Hansard*:

I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Can the minister say why it is that this year for the first time considerable pressure is being put on the sessional stenographic staff to say whether or not they are available for work with the civil service commission during the recess. In explanation, I should say these forms have always been given to the staff but this year the stenographers are being pressed to make their applications to the civil service commission.

This question should not have been addressed to the Secretary of State (Mr. Pinard) but to the chief of the stenographic branch or to myself. This is done to help those who wish employment during the recess to get employment with the civil service commission and for that reason the sooner the forms are completed and returned to the civil service commission the better. We do not have to worry about those who do not wish employment during the recess.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Applewhaite in the chair.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES AND NATIONAL LIBRARY

Public archives—

343. General administration and technical services, \$349,638.

Mr. Knight: Does the minister under whose jurisdiction this matter comes intend to make a statement with regard to the library?

Mr. Pickersgill: No sir, I had not any intention of making a statement. I think the activities of the national library are adequately described in the annual report.

Mr. Knight: I think someone should say a word on this particular matter. I am mainly interested in the library.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member would wait until we get to the library item; this is the archives item.