

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST RURAL
BOX HOLDERS

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Considering the unusually large volume of protests alleging discrimination against rural box holders and the recently announced increased charges, would the minister give serious consideration to eliminating this extra cost to the box holders concerned?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): We are evaluating the cost of the lock box and attempting to gain a revenue commensurate with it. Rural residents have the option of receiving their mail free, as does everybody else by calling for it at a general delivery wicket. Those who choose a lock box service are asking for an additional service and are expected to pay for it.

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN DELIVERY TIMES

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that most mail deliveries within Toronto and Montreal in the last few weeks have been taking two days, and the further fact that the Toronto and Montreal stock exchanges rely on the mail and require settlement of accounts within three days, and are finding it difficult because of the mail delays to comply with the rules of their exchanges, can the minister assure the house that it is the intention in his modernization of the post office to reduce delivery times to one day?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the mail is delivered in one day between Montreal and Toronto, but there are occasions when it is not. I spent all day Friday in Toronto precisely to investigate conditions there. I may say, with respect to the latter point made by the hon. member, that the sorting out of accounts between Montreal and Toronto stockbrokers does not depend primarily on the mail. However I recognize the problem he raised. We are doing everything we can to improve service.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Postmaster General could explain, to some of us whose education is rather limited, what the difference is between the word "sortation" and the word "sorting".

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question should be placed on the order paper.

[*Translation*]

MINISTERS REFUSAL TO MEET FEMALE
EMPLOYEES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Can he tell us why he has refused to grant an interview to 500 casual female employees from his department who wanted to discuss their job difficulties?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of such a request.

[*English*]

UNITED NATIONS

PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE TO END
BIAFRA-NIGERIA CONFLICT

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the government, as a member of the United Nations, work toward the formation of the 19 member committee which Dr. Azikiwe suggested would be a useful instrument for the ending of the Nigeria-Biafra war?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We do not yet have the details of Dr. Azikiwe's proposals, but from the initial report that has appeared in the papers and on other media they appear to be worthy of close scrutiny. Undoubtedly both the federal Nigerian government and the Ojukwu regime will be considering his suggestions in the light of their respective positions, and of the particular respect in which Dr. Azikiwe has been held in the past. I know I have been personally very interested, but as I said on at least one previous occasion it is not mediators that we lack, it is agreement on certain fundamental questions on which the two regimes have not yet been able to agree.

NATIONAL SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL
COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister if he can give the house an indication of when the report of the commission on security will be tabled, either expurgated or otherwise. I ask this