

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

have been given. Did your own department not issue a statement to the effect that this change was going to be made, and did you yourself not indicate in this house that it was going to be done?

**Mr. Starr:** Today.

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** No, sir.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege arising out of a reply made by the Postmaster General. I should like to ask him what he meant on October 14 when he replied to the following question asked by the hon. member for Wellington South:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Is he in a position to confirm or deny reports that the royal coat of arms which appears on all mail trucks, bags and other things used to move Her Majesty's mail is to be removed and replaced by another symbol?

The minister's reply was:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are going to adopt an emblem which will represent a truly Canadian post office and which will give a real interpretation to the Post Office Act.

I ask the minister, did he have no knowledge of the issuance by his department of a statement to the effect that the coat of arms was going to be removed? Did he have no knowledge of that?

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** In speaking on this question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, my answer referred to the first part of the question asked by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition and was to the effect that a statement or a press communiqué from my department had been issued.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** My question is this. Did the minister not know that the issue of a statement in an interview with one of his senior officers enunciated the principle that these insignia were going to be removed? Did he not know about that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, this type of answer is not in keeping with parliamentary practice. The other day the minister said he would be making a statement. As I recall, that statement was going to be made today. What is being hidden and why is the government afraid of answering? Why do we not receive this statement?

[*Mr. Diefenbaker:*]

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order and remind the hon. gentleman of our rules in respect of questions. Questions are to be factual and based on facts. They are not to be argumentative or raise a subject for debate. I suggest that the right hon. gentleman should be subject to the rules of this house just as the rest of us are.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I suggest that observation is a proper one and that we are all subject to the rules except for the government. That is exactly the point I am making. The minister is deceiving parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Crouse:** I wish to speak on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and reply to the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, the present Minister of Transport, that congenial member from the maritimes. At page 8951 of *Hansard* the Postmaster General is reported as having said:

Mr. Speaker, that matter will be dealt with in my statement, which I intend to give on Monday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is entering into a debate. I suggest that the point of order raised by the Minister of Transport is a proper one. The question period is reserved for questions and not for arguments. After the right hon. Leader of the Opposition raised the question a second time I intervened to suggest that the question was argumentative and that the question asked by the right hon. gentleman was not acceptable from a procedural standpoint.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether he intends to make a statement regarding the removal of the coat of arms from post office equipment as he promised on Friday last, as reported in *Hansard* for that day at page 8951?

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, I stated on Friday that I intended to make a statement today, but I am not ready to do so at this time.

[*Translation*]

#### WATER RESOURCES

##### INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING GRAND CANAL PROPOSAL

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to