

about four days ago in that regard. We realize the importance of the meeting, but I am sure that the Premier of Manitoba also realizes the importance of the exchange of agriculture, trade, etc., in Canada and, as well, the agricultural exchange of research which is a long-standing commitment that we have with that country.

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POST OFFICE

MAIL DELIVERY TO NEW TOWNS IN OTTAWA AREA

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General, about which I gave him notice, with respect to postal service in my constituency.

I would appreciate being advised what plans the Post Office may have with respect to postal addresses within the new cities of Nepean and Kanata, because there has been a considerable amount of confusion. Also, could he advise what proposals there are for informing the residents of the new cities about changes of address and the time when these changes should be made?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton for giving me notice of this question: it is in the right Christmas and New Year spirit.

I would like to make the answer as clear as possible. With the establishment of municipal authorities such as those in the cities of Kanata and Nepean, the main factor for postal operations is notification of our facilities across the country as to where these new addresses are located. We are in a process of doing that.

Secondly, our delivery system will remain basically unchanged. Since the postal code does not change, there does not seem to be any problem in that area. As for uncoded mail, it may take a little while before people across the country are completely familiar with the names of the new cities. However, we do not anticipate any major difficulty, and much information will be given about that.

Rural routes should not change at the moment and they will still come from the same post office station. Residents may address their mail as they wish, for example, "Nepean", "Kanata" or "Ottawa". We will deliver it. We have been in consultation with municipal authorities regarding their new boundaries and we are expecting to notify residents of this. I can reassure the hon. gentleman that we will carry on the usual efficient and rapid delivery of mail in this area.

Oral Questions

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

ALLEGED IMPROPER DESIGNATION OF "BILINGUAL"

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the statement made by the Commissioner of Official Languages that there are many bilingual phonies in the civil service, does the minister intend to ask Mr. Yalden to identify these people so they may defend themselves from the charge that they are not what they are supposed to be?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I assume that in his comment the point that Mr. Yalden was making was there are many people who have not yet achieved the level of bilingual capacity that they like to achieve. I really do not accept the word "phony", though.

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[Translation]

URBAN AFFAIRS

STE. SCHOLASTIQUE, QUEBEC—COMPENSATION FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY EXPROPRIATION

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works.

Last November 6 we had here in Ottawa a demonstration by more than 600 residents of Ste-Scholastique during which the predecessor of the present minister promised an answer to their claims within two weeks. I think the minister is aware of their claims. Two weeks later the minister reported his decision to a later date, namely before the end of the year. Considering that we are at the very end of the year, is the minister today in a position to give us answers to the claims of those thousands of people who were expropriated?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question, I would like to say that the expropriated had, thanks to the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes, a series of meetings with officials of my department to examine what new compensations could be given to them, which would meet their hopes, and which could put them on the same level as those who were expropriated in Pickering.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

As the minister is aware, I believe, of the representations already made by hon. members on both sides of the House asking that the expropriated be given at least a glimmer of hope at the end of the year, can the minister assure us that by the end of January, 1979, at the very latest those regulations will finally be accepted by the department as well as the expropriated? In addition, after all this time, will an effort be made to give those people a definite answer?