

questioned on unemployment, and requests him to tackle today's problems with today's weapons? If so, what has been his reaction to their request?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking whether the Prime Minister has received a letter and what has been his reaction. I wonder whether a question simply in those terms is in order. Perhaps the hon. member might find some way to rephrase his question.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could rephrase the question and ask the Prime Minister whether, in his attack on regional economic disparity as it pertains to the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, the battle will be won by spreading disparity throughout the whole nation? If not, what does the government intend to do about this matter?

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POST OFFICE

INQUIRY AS TO ELIMINATION OF AFTERNOON DELIVERIES TO VANCOUVER BUSINESSES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the minister in charge of the Post Office. Is it the intention of the Post Office to further reduce service to businesses in the Vancouver area by cutting out afternoon mail deliveries to business premises?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether this question is of immediate urgency. I certainly do not wish to be difficult, particularly so far as the hon. member is concerned, but this is the type of question which normally ought to be placed on the order paper. The question having been asked, perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply.

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

WARNING SYSTEM IN CASE OF NUCLEAR ATTACK

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence about the U.S. warning system getting out of order last Saturday.

Can the minister say whether Canada has a safe and efficient warning system which can rapidly give the alarm to the people of all Canadian cities, in case of nuclear attack?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we have not exactly the same system in Canada.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I want to put a supplementary question.

I did not ask the minister whether we had the same system as the United States but whether we had in Canada a safe and efficient warning system in case of nuclear attack.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am quite ready to discuss this matter before the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence when consideration is given to my department's estimates.

[Later:]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of National Defence, as a supplementary to that raised a short while ago by my colleague for Abitibi, regarding the existence or non-existence of an alert system in Canada.

The hon. minister replied that he would be prepared to discuss this matter during the consideration of the departmental votes, but since we might possibly be attacked before we ever get to that stage, would the minister be able to say whether we now have an alert system to warn the people of all Canadian cities?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is some sort of a system but I do not feel that we have time during the question period for a detailed discussion of its operation.

[English]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): A supplementary question. I wish to ask the Minister of National Defence how the accidental false alert disturbed the usual calm that prevails in Canada on Saturdays.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, Canadians remain calm on all days of the week.

An hon. Member: All except the Prime Minister.

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FINANCE

SUGGESTED TAX REDUCTION TO ASSIST SECONDARY MANUFACTURING EXPORT INDUSTRIES

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. In considering whether or not to repeg the Canadian dollar will the government consider an immediate corporate tax reduction to assist the labour-intensive secondary manufacturing sector of our export industries to become more competitive, produce more and employ more people?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Before bringing down the next budget, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of Finance will want to consider all forms of tax changes.