

POST OFFICE

DATE OF COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL—DECISION OF ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the long drawn out negotiations with supervisory personnel and the fact that some of these supervisors are being paid at a lower rate than the personnel they supervise, can the Postmaster General indicate when a new contract will be announced?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, that matter was settled several days ago. If the hon. gentleman is referring to the reclassification procedure with regard to supervisory personnel, he will be pleased to know that it has been completed to their satisfaction. As for current labour negotiations, personnel issues as well as non-monetary issues have been resolved.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, will the AIB be applying the same terms of reference to the supervisory group as they did to the CUPW group during their negotiations?

Mr. Mackasey: I cannot prejudge what the AIB decision will be. I imagine that if any change has to be made, heavy stress will be put on the historical relationship between all the groups, CUPW and LCUC as well as the supervisors in both groups.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENTS CONCERNING SINKING OF "SAN JUAN"

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence who yesterday placed a price tag on the safety and security of Canadian fishermen when he said he would not respond to the request to have the search and rescue group deployed because it has not been found to be cost effective. This will prove to be to his discredit. My question today is prompted by the report tabled in the House by the Minister of Transport earlier on the sinking of the fishing vessel *San Juan* and on questions relating to the same subject tabled in the House earlier this week by the minister. In the investigation by the Minister of Transport there is the following statement:

At no time during the search was the "San Juan" itself actually sighted, only the flare from the vessel at 0345 being visible to those aboard the "Bartlett".

Yet in his reply to me earlier this week the minister stated that visual contact was established by the coast-guard ship at 3.30 o'clock and maintained until 4.30 o'clock. That is a very serious discrepancy considering the fact that two fishermen were lost in that accident. There is a serious contradiction there. I ask the minister if he can explain it or if he will cause a ministerial investigation of that serious contradiction to be carried out.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): I will look into the facts that have been presented, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

POST OFFICE

REASON FOR DELAY OF MAIL AT CLINTON, ONTARIO

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Notices of a meeting were sent out to dairy producers from the agriculture and food office in Clinton, Ontario on Tuesday, April 20. On Tuesday, April 27, one week after the mailing of these notices, many had not been received. Can the minister advise us what is going on in the Post Office when an ordinary procedure, such as getting such notices a few miles to their destination on time, cannot be carried out, or does the fact that they were not sealed and that only a 6 cents stamp was put on them could cause this kind of delay?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I would have to inquire whether the delay was intentional or unintentional and whether the circumstances mentioned by the hon. member, the fact that the letters were unsealed and the fact that probably insufficient postage was placed on them, are correct. I will investigate today and report to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McKinley: Surely the minister should know whether it is general policy within the Post Office Department that unsealed mail with a 6 cent stamp on it takes longer to arrive to its destination than first class mail. Can he at least give us that information? Further, let me say that I will send the pertinent information to the minister.

Mr. Clark: Do it by hand.

Mr. Mackasey: I must apologize, Mr. Speaker. I did not think the hon. member wanted general information but was referring to something specific. I would like to be useful. If the hon. gentleman will bring the specific case to my attention, I will give it extraordinary attention because of my great affection for the hon. member.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

LAY-OFFS AT HM DOCKYARD, ESQUIMALT—ASSURANCE OF WORK ON REFIT OF HMCS "SASKATCHEWAN"

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. Can he assure the House, in the interests of preserving the strength, morale and integrity of the highly trained civilian work force at the HM Dockyard in Esquimalt, that he will issue instructions immediately that all lay-offs from the competent staff of this force cease forthwith?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will make inquiries concerning that representation.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Can he assure the House that all work on the refit of HMCS *Saskatchewan*, which is to start next month, will take place with this force at that base?