

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Alma, relating to the establishment of a letter-carrier delivery system within the town of Alma (St. Joseph d'Alma), county of Lac-St-Jean, province of Quebec.

Motion agreed to.

## TRADE

BASE METALS—REFERENCE TO UNION  
STATEMENT ON TARIFFS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister's attention been drawn to a statement by the executive board of the international union of mine, mill and smelter workers, which represents 100,000 workers in the base metals industry? The statement reads in part as follows:

We declare the erection of barriers between the United States and Canada to prevent the free flow of non-ferrous metals is contrary to the interests of our membership and we therefore recommend that no tariff barriers be erected between our two countries.

Would the minister bring this important development to the attention of the United States authorities?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** My hon. friend sent me a copy of this document headed "Statement on Tariffs" since coming into the house this morning. What it indicates is not a new situation at all. This parliament has control over the tariffs of this country. As to whatever tariffs the United States choose to impose upon the importation of non-ferrous metals from Canada into that country, of course that is a matter for the United States administration and congress. But in that respect I repeat what I have said so many times this session, namely that we have made strong and urgent representations to the United States against any such action on their part. The United States administration has not indicated latterly any final policy with regard to this year 1958, but they are very well aware of the views of this country.

**Mr. Byrne:** I have a supplementary question. I am sure the minister does not realize that this is a new development, that the unions in the United States had made representations to the tariff commission favouring the tariff. In my opinion this is a new development, and I was wondering whether the minister would bring it to the attention of the United States authorities.

[Mr. Gauthier (Lake St. John).]

OIL—STATEMENT ON REPORTED ORAL REPLY  
FROM THE UNITED STATES TO NOTE  
RESPECTING RESTRICTIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Medicine Hat directed to me a question which is reported at page 3897 of *Hansard*, inquiring as to the accuracy of a Reuters dispatch which appeared in yesterday morning's *Gazette* to the effect that the United States had made an oral reply to the note presented by Canada protesting against limitation of United States oil imports from Canada.

I have made inquiries, Mr. Speaker, and I can assure the house that there is no foundation for this press statement. No reply, written or oral, has yet been received from the United States government.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF QUESTION  
ON ORDER PAPER

**Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to withdraw question No. 333. I have received the information I requested.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No. 333 withdrawn.

## REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister based on remarks he made, as found on page 3563 of *Hansard* of January 21, when tabling the confidential report made by the deputy minister of trade and commerce. Has the Prime Minister yet found the missing front pages of this report?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned there are no missing front pages.

**Mr. Sinclair:** I should now like to ask a supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister now tell the house how at page 3526 of *Hansard* he was able to give the full title of the report without these pages, since the title occurs nowhere else in the text of the report which he tabled?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that of course is just one of these trick questions—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, no.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—and has no meaning whatsoever. The title was apparent, the title was available and the title was in the document.