

Inquiries of the Ministry

National Health and Welfare. Is it the intention of the Food and Drug Directorate to issue new standards reducing the amount of d.d.t. allowed in the cultivation of crops used for food? If so, when will these new standards be issued?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The matter is under review by the Food and Drug Directorate. No decision has been made as yet.

Mr. Harding: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the constantly increasing mass of evidence that d.d.t. and other toxic pesticides are reaching unsafe proportions in many areas of Canada, will the minister, in conjunction with other government departments, initiate a full study of the effects on our environment of d.d.t. and other toxic pesticides, and in particular on the source of our food supply?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked by the hon. member comes close to being an argument. However, perhaps the minister might want to reply.

Mr. Munro: The most recent surveys we have had from the department indicate that they are not at levels such as to constitute a danger in the terms described by the hon. member.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**ALLEGED IMPROPRIETY IN SUPPRESSION OF ADJUDICATION REPORTS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council whether he is now in a position to explain why the reports of Mr. Martin relating to the Post Office were released only last Friday, seven to nine weeks after the decisions were made. I direct this question to the President of the Privy Council because the Postmaster General indicated last week that it was the responsibility of the President of the Privy Council.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): This is not my responsibility, Mr. Speaker. I believe that one of my colleagues is ready to answer the question.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): The three reports, which are inter-related, of the chief adjudicator of the Public Service Staff Relations Board, and which pertain to the grievances of the Council of Postal Unions were received by the

[Mr. Harding.]

Public Service Staff Relations Board on June 16, 1969. These reports were distributed on July 4, 1969. The thirteen working days between the date of receipt of the reports and the date of distribution were spent in printing, proof reading, final printing and distribution. That period of time is normal and there was no evidence of delay in these procedures.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The time may be normal, but if so it requires further explanation.

However, I should like to ask the Minister of Supply and Services whether he has any explanation to give of the fact that Mr. Martin's decisions were dated in one case April 30 and in the other case May 15. Are the mail services in this country that slow?

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**FIR PLYWOOD—DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANADIAN AND U.S. PRICES**

Mr. J. G. Lind (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I wonder if the minister can assure the Canadian people that he will investigate the difference in the cost of U.S. fir plywood, which is approximately \$40 per thousand cheaper than Canadian fir plywood, and would he also investigate the possibility that the B.C. Plywood Association is not maintaining prices for the manufacturers, thus milking the Canadian public?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to look into this matter, although I understand that Canadian, and particularly B.C. plywood, is far superior to U.S. plywood.

Mr. Lind: I realize that some grades of U.S. fir plywood are inferior to our Canadian plywood, but their waterproof plywood, I should like to point out to the minister, is of far better quality.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE**RESIGNATION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR—SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is directed to the Secretary of State. Has Miss Mary Jolliffe resigned as public relations director of the Performing Arts Centre because of the provision of inadequate