

Suharto, dictator of Indonesia, will the Canadian government now abandon such plans and keep our money at home for better purposes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not share the hon. member's premise, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Ten o'clock.

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POST OFFICE

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SMALL COMMUNITIES DENIED HOME DELIVERY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that residents of cities have their mail delivered to their doorsteps while we in smaller communities in western Canada have to pay post office box rental and pick up our own mail, does the Postmaster General not now think it is time to discontinue this discrimination?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me advance notice of his question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: We are lucky to get any mail.

Mr. Mackasey: Hon. members opposite think it funny that there is at least one gentleman in their ranks. There are criteria making a distinction as to whether mail is to be delivered door to door or picked up. That criteria depends on whether the population of the community varied anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000, and the rate growth. Until it becomes more economical to deliver door-to-door, we ask the people to pick up their mail at general delivery or, preferably if they have a box, to use their own mailboxes and pick up their own mail at their convenience.

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● (1440)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

AGREEMENT WITH NEW BRUNSWICK FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION—ALLEGED PROVINCIAL COUNTER PROPOSAL

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the announcement by the premier of New Brunswick before the Legislative Assembly of a federal counter-proposition concerning an agreement on highways, in reply to a proposition made by the New Brunswick government, which apparently was unacceptable to the federal government, could the minister check with his officials whether that counter-proposition really has his approbation, or whether it simply is a working document for his officials?

Oral Questions

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I will surely check into that statement the New Brunswick premier made yesterday before the assembly and I will try to communicate with the hon. member to give him full details on the point he raised. I hope I will be able to give him very helpful information.

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[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED PIGGYBACK TERMINAL IN WINNIPEG—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the city of Winnipeg sent a telegram to the federal Cabinet requesting it to rescind an order in council allowing a CNR piggyback terminal to be located in southwest Winnipeg adjacent to residential areas proposed and existing. Would the government House leader indicate whether any action has been taken by the government to date in this regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure why the question was referred to me but, at any rate, I will make inquiries.

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AGRICULTURE

REDUCTION IN SUBSIDY TO INDUSTRIAL MILK PRODUCERS— REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION FOR CREAM PRODUCERS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Agriculture announced on November 4 a decrease in the subsidy payments to industrial milk producers based on a production increase of 11 per cent, and in view of the fact that cream producers have actually had a reduction in production, does the minister not feel that to deal fairly and equitably with the cream producers their situation should be acted on separately?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, they are all in the cost-sharing program. I want to make it clear that I did not decrease the subsidy as announced last April. We are still paying the same amount of money as we said we would because it is based on a certain amount of production. We are investigating the suggestion made by the hon. member about cream producers to determine whether anything can or should be done.

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HEALTH

MERCURY POISONING IN TESTING OF CREE INDIANS IN QUEBEC—CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare tell the House exactly when his department will begin to conduct mer-