

#### SUGGESTED DELAY IN CLOSING OF SMALLER OFFICES

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** A supplementary question to the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider delaying the closing of some of the smaller post offices throughout the country until other major problems in the post office have been straightened out?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding on a number of different fronts. Last night I had dinner with the executive of the two national unions and we had a very good general discussion. There is now no need to reduce our efforts in one area in order to speed them up in another. I think most hon. members know, or have already noted, that service out of Ottawa has become considerably improved.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Kierans:** If hon. members opposite have not noticed that, at least some members of the press gallery have. Distinct improvements throughout the post office are taking place.

#### INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL STAMP VENDING MACHINES

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Last September the Postmaster General announced a program to instal additional vending machines for stamps. When is that program to start?

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** We are at present actively engaged in that program, Mr. Speaker. Because of the changed design of our 25 cent pieces our first priority was to redesign existing machines.

#### THE MINISTRY

##### REQUESTED SEPARATE PORTFOLIOS FOR TRANSPORT AND HOUSING

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, may I revert for a moment to the question of housing. I address my question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether he would consider that this is an appropriate time to implement something that many people in this country have been urging for some time, the establishment of two different portfolios with respect to transport and housing, so that we could have a minister of transport and another minister to take charge of the housing field.

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

##### FLOODS

##### TRAIL, B.C.—ACTION TO CONTROL EMERGENCY SITUATION

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government of British Columbia asked for emergency help to cope with the flooding situation at the city of Trail, British Columbia. Has the demand been for financial assistance or for assistance under the Emergency Measures Organization. If so, is the government giving favourable consideration to this demand.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have had reports of some floods, starting in British Columbia in the area of Trail. Our indication of this moment is that neither the military nor the E.M.O. have received any request from the provincial or municipal authorities for help in combatting the situation. At the moment it is therefore considered a local problem which is dealt with by local volunteers.

#### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. May I ask whether, in view of the wording of the motion now before the house, he accepts it as a motion of confidence. If defeated, is he prepared to resign? I ask this question in view of what took place on another, similar occasion a little over one year ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. I think the hon. member will have to see what the result is.

#### ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

##### EXPENDITURES FOR NATIONAL MUSEUMS

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the crisis in Canada's national museums, as represented by the resignation of Dr. Banfield, the director of the Museum of Natural Sciences, what action does the minister contemplate taking to restore confidence in this important cultural activity.

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, the board of directors of the corporation which comprises the National Museums is presently studying this question