

Inquiries of the Ministry

Commerce, will the minister consider pulling that one?

[Translation]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**REQUEST FOR SPECIAL RATE FOR EDUCATIONAL PERIODICALS**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

Since a great number of periodicals had to stop their circulation because postal rates are too high, does the government intend to set special rates for periodicals directly involved with data processing in the field of education?

Mr. Speaker: I think this question should be put on the order paper or debated at the time of adjournment.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING QUOTA ON CANADIAN EMIGRATION—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Thursday last I asked a question about the quota system imposed by the United States which effectively discriminates against Canadians who wish to move to that country. The minister replied that a committee was being established. Has the committee been established and, if so, is it an officials' committee or a ministerial committee? What is the timetable for that committee to report on this long outstanding problem?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when the ministerial meeting was held in Washington we brought two questions to the attention of the secretaries in the United States administration. One was in respect of the quota system to which the hon. member has referred and the second was the limitation upon Canadian musicians performing in the United States. I think the United States secretaries were sufficiently impressed with the cogency of the representations that they said they would like to establish a joint committee between the two countries to see what could be done to rectify the situation. The hon. member will understand that Congressional action may be required because it is not simply the cabinet which is concerned.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, would the minister be good enough to table the representations the Canadian government made in respect of the quota system referred to previously? They were sought on two previous occasions. The first was on May 5, 1969, as recorded on page 8295 of *Hansard*, and the second occasion I believe was February 10, 1969 as recorded on page 5314 of *Hansard*.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to consider the question. As the hon. member knows, it is not customary to reveal exchanges of this nature between two governments, although there is nothing in these exchanges which I would have any hesitation in showing to my hon. friend. There is simply the question of whether one should reveal publicly diplomatic dispatches.

[Later:]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, during this peaceful and unhypocritical question period I should like to direct a further supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs relating to the first question I asked. When will he table a report, and when can we expect some action on this problem?

Mr. Sharp: Following the ministerial meetings officials are now considering the establishment of a committee which probably will be at the official level. It is most important to establish the terms of reference in such a way as will meet our requirements. That is the only reason there has been any delay.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**ADJUDICATION REPORTS—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND UNIONS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct the following question to the Postmaster General. A week ago today the matter of the awards of Mr. Martin was raised in the house. The minister said he had asked for staff meetings with the postal unions to discuss the effect of one of the awards. May I ask whether or not there have been negotiations between the Post Office Department and the relevant postal unions with regard to the awards tabled today?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Yes. There was a preliminary meeting last week. There is to be another more formal session tomorrow morning.