

Questions

\*STAMP VENDING MACHINES

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

1. Are stamp vending machines operating throughout Canada subject to control or inspection by the Department of the Postmaster General?
2. Has the Postmaster General been informed that in one or more cases such stamp vending machines are selling Canadian stamps in stamp folders printed outside of Canada and bearing the description "U.S. Postage Stamps"?
3. What does the minister propose to do to prevent a recurrence of such or similar abuses?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, this question is marked to be answered orally. The short answer to the question is that stamp-vending machines operate under a permit issued by the Postmaster General in each individual case. Machines are subject to the control of the department, but not necessarily individual inspection. Any complaints are investigated. Representations have been made on other occasions that these stamps that were sold were in folders bearing the indication "U.S. stamps."

The hon. member for Prince Albert was good enough to speak to me about this question before he put it on the order paper and told me he was going to ask for an oral answer because he thought it was of sufficient general interest to require more than merely a formal answer. It appears that someone who wrote to him went to one of these stamp-vending machines in Jasper Park Lodge and bought a four-cent stamp for 5 cents. This is the stamp to which the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan) took exception the other evening. There was some discussion as to what was really represented on the stamp. I have examined it again, sir, in the light of day, and it bears a striking resemblance to the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings waiting for parliament to prorogue. The folder does say on the back, however, "U.S. postage stamps, sanitarily packaged. Save a trip to the post office. Printed in U.S.A."

Well, I think it is highly undesirable to have stamp-vending machines selling Canadian stamps in Canada in folders of this kind. As far as this particular case is concerned, an investigation will be made right away.

I think I should tell the house at the same time that the post office has had a good deal of difficulty with these stamp-vending machines; and not only the post office. I myself have had two experiences at airports where I have lost as much as 15 or 20 cents and got no stamps at all. It rankled with me. That is why I am pleased to announce that treasury board the other day approved the purchase by the post office itself of machines which we believe really will work, and which are going to be operated

5. When were these arrangements made and what results have been obtained?

**Mr. Pickersgill:**

1. 1954, 19,545; 1953, 13,562.
2. See table attached.
3. See table attached. Countries of birth were Poland, U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Hungary, the Baltic countries and others.
4. A court of Canadian citizenship has been established by the government of Canada with facilities at 1247 Guy street, Montreal, for the sole purpose of receiving and hearing applications and presenting certificates of Canadian citizenship. The judge of this court has assisting him three commissioners with authority to hear applicants. This court has been established in order that applications in Montreal may be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.
5. May 1, 1955. During May and June, 1,157 applications were received, 1,504 certificates were presented and 4,309 applicants have been heard.

Persons naturalized by country of former nationality  
Calendar Years 1953 and 1954

	1953	1954
Austria .....	191	254
Baltic countries .....	435	1,398
Belgium .....	158	212
British Commonwealth .....	3,454	3,568
China .....	2,044	1,425
Czechoslovakia .....	424	563
Denmark .....	132	169
Finland .....	165	156
France .....	89	120
Germany .....	371	439
Greece .....	181	186
Hungary .....	294	430
Italy .....	317	568
Japan .....	155	132
Netherlands, The ....	356	783
Norway .....	163	200
Poland .....	2,328	3,303
Roumania .....	237	288
Sweden .....	101	114
Switzerland .....	122	137
U.S.S.R. ....	328	416
United States .....	640	570
Yugoslavia .....	245	570
Other Asian .....	57	58
Other European .....	44	42
Others .....	7	10
Stateless .....	524	3,434
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>19,545</b>

Source: Department of Citizenship and Immigration.