

Inquiries of the Ministry

through the mails. I have trust and confidence in the Canadian people themselves to make their decisions. I do not think we need a censorship branch in the Post Office Department.

SUGGESTED COMMEMORATIVE STAMP OF
PRESENT MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Some hon. Members: The last question.

Mr. Denis: I should like to know from him if he will recommend to the next Liberal government the issuance of a stamp bearing the minister's picture in commemoration of the most photogenic, expensive and ineffective postmaster general in Canada's history?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I should very much like to accommodate this last request of the hon. member, but there are two obstacles which stand in the way. When I said "last request" I meant "death-bed request". As for the two obstacles, I would point out that the hon. member referred to the wrong party as forming the next government; and second, to be commemorated on a postage stamp one must not be alive. I hope to be both alive and here in this position if the Prime Minister so wishes when this house next convenes.

Mr. Denis: A supplementary question. Out of the millions of dollars given away in the last few days of this parliament and to be paid out of government deficits, would the minister spare a dime for the installation of one of his magic plastic mail boxes for the people of St. Denis, who have not seen one yet?

Mr. Ricard: Who wrote that for you?

Mr. Denis: Not Ricard, anyway.

TRANSPORT

WOOD ISLAND-CARIBOU—INQUIRY AS TO NEW
FERRY

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Margaret Macdonald (Kings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position to advise the house when a new ferry will be built for the Wood Island-Caribou service?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): I am very pleased to tell the hon. lady and the house that an agreement has been worked out between Northumberland Ferries Limited and the government for the building of

a new ferry by Northumberland Ferries Limited for the Wood Island-Caribou service. I understand that for this contract, which will be eligible for a subsidy of 40 per cent, tenders will be called very soon so that the building of the ship will be undertaken in the very near future.

While I am on my feet and while I am mentioning this 40 per cent subsidy and talking about shipbuilding, I should like to remind the hon. member for Levis that the *Bonaventure* or the aircraft carrier that is the largest ship of our fleet and that was bought by the previous government was built in Belfast.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport and ask him whether this ferry to which he referred in his answer to the hon. lady today is the same ferry which during consideration of the supplementary estimates he told us was going to be built?

Mr. Balcer: During consideration of the estimates I said that treasury board had approved the decision. Now agreement has been reached between the two parties.

Mr. Pickersgill: Who is wasting the time of the house?

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Can the minister tell the house about the size of that ship? Is it of the nature of the *Lord Selkirk* now in service?

Mr. Balcer: This vessel will be of the most modern roll-on/roll-off type and will be able to load and unload the full complement of automobiles in a matter of minutes. The overall length will be approximately 250 feet, with a maximum speed of 14 knots. Capacity will be 60 automobiles and 350 passengers with up to date accommodation for the crew. The ship will also be able to handle the largest size trailer trucks.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Levis has a supplementary question?

Mr. Maurice Bourget (Levis): May I ask the minister what will be the name of the captain, and also his age?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): I should also like to ask the minister a supplementary question.

Mr. Churchill: Let him answer the first one.

Mr. Pickersgill: Can the minister say when this ship will be ready for service?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I will not attempt to answer the first question. When the ship is christened I think the question of my hon.