

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am waiting to get a suitable cameraman to take a picture of me doing so.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): My question is directed to the Postmaster General. I wonder if the hon. gentleman can explain to the house why his report for 1963 which was tabled on April 2 has not as yet been delivered; at least I have not received my copy.

Mr. Knowles: I have mine.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): My first information was that they would be put in the mail today, but I then asked if they could be delivered to hon. members' rooms and I was told they were all delivered before the house met this afternoon.

Mr. Hales: Would the Postmaster General say whether there had to be an alteration made to this report?

Mr. Nicholson: There had to be a correction in the date of the report signed by myself. It was a clerical error; it had been dated earlier than the date when I took office. I noticed it myself and promptly had it corrected.

Mr. Hales: Does the same explanation apply to the letter signed by the deputy postmaster general?

Mr. Nicholson: I would think so. It is purely a question of the date. I caught it myself before distribution was made and directed that it be changed.

Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Postmaster General can say why the original copy that was tabled earlier on April 3 contained on page 5 a letter from the deputy postmaster general dated April 1, 1963 and addressed to Hon. Azellus Denis; because I believe the election did not take place until April 8 and the Postmaster General was not sworn in until April 22.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I asked the same question, and that resulted in the correction.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATIONTORONTO—REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE
CONVERSION OF STATION CJBC TO
FRENCH LANGUAGE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for [Mr. Prittie.]

Wellington South asked me some time ago if the board of broadcast governors had arranged for a public hearing concerning the conversion plan for station CJBC in Toronto. I am informed by the B.B.G. that the board has no plans to hold a public hearing in this respect, and that the conversion involves a question of programming, which is a matter resting with the C.B.C. I am further informed that in the board's opinion it does not have the right to order a public hearing in this respect.

PUBLIC SERVICEREQUEST FOR CHANGE IN CIVIL SERVICE
APPLICATION FORM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question asked by the hon. member for Oxford with respect to changes in the civil service application form. Section 40, paragraph 1 of the Civil Service Act requires the civil service commission to give preference to Canadian citizens either by birth or naturalization. To implement this the commission must verify claims to Canadian citizenship. This is done, without any discrimination, by asking for birth certificates in the case of citizens by birth and, in the case of others, by requesting information which will enable the commission to check claims against the records of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

FINANCEREPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING REMOVAL OF
SALES TAX ON DRUGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he had extensive representation for the removal of the sales tax on drugs in Canada; and if so, is the government contemplating taking that step?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): The answer is no to both questions, Mr. Speaker.

REFUNDS OF SALES TAX TO CHURCHES,
SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of National Revenue. Could the minister say whether a satisfactory formula has been devised by the Department of National Revenue to provide the refund of the sales tax on building materials as it applies to