

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

island, with two modern boats operating at pretty fast speeds. Then, over and above that, we have a voluntary service covering the whole of the west coast of Vancouver island. Under the circumstances I do not think that I can answer the last part of my hon. friend's question in the affirmative.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****STATEMENT AS TO LAY-OFFS AT VALCARTIER AND QUEBEC ARSENALS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last before the orders of the day were called the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dufresne) stated that there had been an extensive lay-off at the Valcartier and Quebec arsenals, and asked me when the personnel would be re-employed.

I have been in touch with the manager of the Canadian Arsenals operations at Quebec city and Valcartier, who has assured me that there have been no recent lay-offs at either plant due to lack of work.

**PUBLIC WORKS****INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF POST OFFICE IN VANCOUVER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Public Works. Do the minister and the government intend to proceed with the immediate construction of a post office in the city of Vancouver?

**Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works):** These matters are all receiving consideration and, as decisions are made, they will be communicated through the normal channels.

[Later:]

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the question asked of the Minister of Public Works by the hon. member for Vancouver East, is the minister aware that during the recent election campaign an announcement was made by a minister of the crown that a post office building in Vancouver would be proceeded with immediately?

**Mr. Winters:** I am aware of no such announcement.

[Later:]

**Mr. Winch:** As a newcomer I have asked a question, and I now ask you a question, Mr. Speaker. Have I the right to ask the

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Minister of Public Works a question supplementary to that which I raised a while ago?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has asked his question. I would ask him not to pursue the matter at this time. Hon. members realize that I am giving some latitude to oral questions that are being asked before the orders of the day are called. I do so because this is the beginning of the first session of a new parliament, and also because of the fact that questions which appear on the order paper may not be reached until after the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne is disposed of. But I would ask hon. members to bear in mind that questions which are permitted before the orders of the day are dealt with are to be brief and of an urgent character. I think the hon. member has used his privilege and that now we should proceed with the business of the house.

**Mr. Winch:** This is a matter of—

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not debatable.

**WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES****STATEMENT AS TO LIMITATION ON CASUAL EARNINGS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Pearkes) asked whether any limitations had been placed on the casual earnings which recipients of war veterans allowance are permitted to claim as an exemption from permissible income.

As I said at the time he asked the question, certain instructions had been issued in an endeavour to define "casual earnings" so the district war veterans allowance authorities could decide on questions of this kind as they arose, and so avoid delay in informing veterans whether or not earnings from any employment which they might have in view could be exempt as income.

Due to an ambiguous wording in a directive, which was corrected very shortly afterwards, the impression may have got about that it was proposed to restrict casual earnings to the sum of \$2 per diem. This, of course, was not the intention. The purpose was to allow those who are under section 3 of the act approximately the same freedom in regard to casual earnings as those who are under section 4 of the act, which is proving advantageous to more and more war veterans allowance recipients as time goes on.

As I previously stated, there is no intention to be more restrictive in regard to war veterans allowance recipients' casual earnings