

Oral Questions

ton, and if it does I will be glad, either by question or some other method, to convey the information to members of the House.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. As the Deputy Prime Minister knows, this is also a very important subject with respect to Quebec, because Quebec industries are threatened by tariff cuts if we should just have the tariff cut. I should like to ask the President of Privy Council this question. The new tariff cuts sought were about 40 per cent for certain countries, the New York *Times* service reports, and exclude textiles, steel products, shoes and televisions from the general, over-all tariff cut.

Has Canada informed the other countries at GATT that we want to exclude textiles, shoes and televisions, or what items have we told the other countries that we want to except from the general decline in tariffs that is likely to come about?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we are in the preliminary stage of a negotiating session. Countries are providing offer lists and request lists. There is an exchange, obviously, on the part of each country to improve the response from other countries. For that reason, generally the request lists have remained confidential, except that there have been exchanges with provincial governments, members of private industry and trade unions, I understand, on a confidential basis. That is the general situation.

I have stated in the House already, with respect to shoes and textiles, that there is not likely to be any general desire on the part of GATT negotiators to undertake extensive cuts in either of these sectors which are facing difficulties in many of the countries at the GATT table.

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POST OFFICE**ACTION TO IMPROVE MAIL DELIVERY**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. At present the minister is studying proposals which, as I understand it, will bring about improved labour-management relations and achieve faster, more reliable mail service, the two most serious problems. In the Ottawa *Citizen* of June 3, 1978, the minister is quoted as saying:

"In the old days, milk and bread and groceries were delivered to your door—now there's no milk at the door. We are living in 1978.

"You can't distribute six billion pieces of mail the same way as one billion."

I am sure the minister appreciates the fact that the letter carriers are concerned about that matter, as are the people of Canada. Is this one of the proposals the minister is presently studying? In other words, what is he doing about door-to-door mail delivery?

Hon. J.-Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the hon. member for Hamilton West that as far as letter carriers are concerned, I have

[Mr. MacEachen.]

stated—and I repeat—there is no question of curtailing the existing service. On the contrary, I think we are improving it considerably. We give service to what we call fill-ins in certain areas. At the moment we are studying the possibility of enlarging again, if at all possible, taking into consideration the cost in man-years and within our financial capabilities.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister would not mind my saying that in future he should not make such stupid statements. It does not show concern for the people of Canada who want their mail. The Postmaster General is presently studying proposals which, as he says, will bring about an improvement in labour relations and achieve a faster and better mail service. At the same time, a press release of June 7 from the Post Office quotes the minister as saying:

Naturally, it would be premature at this stage to make public the measures being examined to bring about the desired changes, but I hope to be able to make some of them known at a later date.

Given the fact that CUPW says a strike is imminent, will the Postmaster General disclose these proposals to the Canadian people, or is he going to be secretive about them as he was about the 1975 Hays report? According to that report, there is a lot of mismanagement and mess in the Post Office. Are we going to be faced with the same secretive attitude?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I think I will not say anything about some of the adjectives used by the hon. member for Hamilton West. I am not used to them. However, I will get right to the point and tell him that at the moment we are negotiating with the Letter Carriers Union in a most progressive and understanding way. We hope to be able to get a settlement very soon. As far as CUPW is concerned, we are in conciliation at the moment. It would be very unwise for me at this time to take on the responsibility of the conciliation board. Let them take their responsibility, and we will take ours when the time comes.

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● (1452)

FINANCE**FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD**

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader. Can he advise whether any decision has been made by cabinet with regard to federal funding for the International Year of the Child?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely no responsibility for that program.

DUMPING DUTY ON WIDE-FLANGE STEEL BEAMS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In his answer yesterday to the hon. member for Capilano regarding anti-dumping duties, the Prime Minister said: