

[Later:]

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister with regard to his NATO statement, which amounts to a planned withdrawal of our NATO forces from Europe, presumably to take place at the end of 1969. Is it the Prime Minister's intention to pursue the course followed by France and maintain membership only in the political arm of NATO?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the question. We never talked about a planned withdrawal; we talked about a planned reduction.

**Mr. Crouse:** Could I now have an answer to my question? I thank the Prime Minister for his correction.

#### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

##### DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM REVISED PAYMENT PROCEDURES

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address an important domestic question to the Postmaster General. What action is being taken by his department to correct the situation whereby many employees in Vancouver and other post offices are not receiving their proper cheques, with some reported to be behind in salary payments to the extent of hundreds of dollars? I ask this question in view of the impact of this situation on the morale of our post office employees.

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications):** As is known, Mr. Speaker, the government has recently changed its system of salary payments from twice a month to once every two weeks. This has occasioned some difficulty to some employees of the government, because though now they receive more cheques they find that each individual cheque is somewhat smaller in amount, and there have been some cases, mainly in Vancouver, where the cheques have been delayed. I can assure hon. members however that this is being looked after, and that it is of immediate concern to all of us.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence but, as he has just left the house, I shall wait until he comes back.

#### Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

#### FLOODS

##### REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In connection with the continuing flood threat in western Canada has the Prime Minister received any requests for assistance from the provincial authorities and, if so, what is the nature of the assistance provided by Ottawa?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I know of no such requests, Mr. Speaker, but I will ask my office if any have been made.

#### OIL

##### CALGARY, ALTA—DISCUSSIONS ON CONTINENTAL POLICY

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the Prime Minister back from sunny Alberta and trust he enjoyed his skiing on the slopes. I would like to put this question to him in reference to petroleum—

**Mr. Douglas Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay):** On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the hon. member that it was on the slopes of Okanagan-Kootenay, on the Bugaboos Mountain.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into an argument with my good friends from British Columbia, but I did understand that the Prime Minister did a little skiing on his way back in those places that count in Alberta, and I would like to put this question to him in reference to the petroleum industry.

Did the Prime Minister in Calgary meet privately with representatives of the petroleum industry to discuss the consequences of his talks with President Nixon or to receive formally the views of the representatives of the petroleum industry about a new national and North American continental oil and natural gas policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did meet privately with some of the representatives of the oil industry of western Canada, and we had general talks about the industry and its future.

**Mr. Woolliams:** In reference to the dialogue which he had with the President of the United