

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not accept that statement as a correct statement of the part played by the Solicitor General.

Mr. Douglas: Since the inquiry will deal only with the incidents in the two penitentiaries and not with the handling of the situation by the Solicitor General, does the government intend to make any inquiry into the conduct of the minister which, according to Professor Desmond Morton, brought such sad and dangerous results?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, quite naturally the Solicitor General will be reporting to his colleagues.

Mr. Baldwin: Will there be any observers when that happens?

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[Translation]

POST OFFICECOMPLAINT RESPECTING DELAY IN DELIVERY OF
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Post Office.

Has he received, or does he still receive, complaints about delays in the delivery of first class mail which takes sometimes seven to ten days to reach its destination?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Not of this nature, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, does the minister intend to take soon the necessary action in order to restore the postal service to its former efficiency?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

INCOME TAXREQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF EXEMPTION GRANTED UNITED
STATES PROFESSORS AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At this time of year convocations are being held across the country at various universities and one subject of strong argument is the fact that under arrangements with the United States American professors who come to Canada for two years are exempt from income tax. The result is that Canadian PhDs find themselves unable to secure positions. Although the agreement is reciprocal, it only works one way—Americans come to Canada. In order to ensure that Canadians with PhDs stay in Canada and help to build Canada, would the government do away with this provision at once?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps on the technical point the Minister of National Revenue might answer.

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Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, we have tax treaties with a number of countries calling for reciprocal tax arrangements for professors who come for a limited period and return to their own countries. If I am not mistaken, the government proposed in its white paper on tax reform the renegotiating of these treaties to eliminate this particular concession.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The white paper, I thought, had died a natural death until the minister disinterred it. I ask him why it is that under this particular arrangement, which I do not believe is in the form of a treaty, we are not assured that at the end of two years Americans who come to Canada must return to their own country instead of staying in Canada and thereby creating an impossible employment position for Canadians?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, the arrangements do not call for the return of the professors to their own country. Rather, if they remain, they become subject to the ordinary income tax laws. If I am not correct in this I will so inform the House. In any event, this matter is to be dealt with when next there is a budget presentation before the House.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then it will be dealt with in the budget?

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AGRICULTUREINTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO ENFORCE SECTION 121 OF
BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the admission by the Prime Minister last Monday that Bill C-176 may not constitutionally be able to resolve the chicken and egg war, and in order to clarify the motives behind C-176, is the government going to present, along with other constitutional proposals, a constitutional amendment to enforce the spirit as well as the letter of section 121 of the British North America Act?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is not impossible that some such proposals might be put before the constitutional conference. At the present time it is not contemplated that the division of powers will be a main subject for consideration. The question of bringing our constitution to Canada so that it can be amended in ways that might overcome these problems is our first concern.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Battle River on a supplementary.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, are we to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Battle River.

Mr. Downey: Has the government canvassed the provinces on this matter or is the government or any province