

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): They have already been dealt with. The conditions are normal in Hamilton, Welland and Toronto today, and they are just about normal in Montreal also.

Mr. Lewis: What does "normal" mean?

An hon. Member: Chaos and confusion.

Mr. Macquarrie: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the position of the Postmaster General that the backlog of 500,000 letters in Montreal as reported today is a normal circumstance?

Mr. Kierans: The figure is wildly exaggerated, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I have a supplementary question for the Postmaster General. Does he also intend to restore to the public the service which was provided by the Post Office Department?

Mr. Kierans: I think that the service is improving considerably—

An hon. Member: That is nonsense.

Mr. Kierans:—and when we take into account the fact that over 90 per cent of the people in the two unions favour the five day week, I think that this is a pretty good batting average.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I am talking about service to the public.

SATURDAY DELIVERY TO RETAIL
ESTABLISHMENTS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I have a supplementary question for the Postmaster General. Is he giving consideration to providing a Saturday delivery service to retail establishments?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): No, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

PUBLIC WORKS

ST. ROMUALD, QUE.—CONSTRUCTION OF
GRAIN ELEVATORS

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since the federal government will have a deep-water wharf built at Saint-Romuald because two oil refineries will soon locate there, has the Minister of Agriculture considered

building grain elevators in that locality to serve the south shore?

Mr. Speaker: I believe that the question as asked by the hon. member could easily be put on the order paper, and if there is any urgency, I would gladly come back to it with the hon. member to discuss it at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Dumont: At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

TRANSPORT

SUBSIDIES ON INTRA-PROVINCIAL FERRIES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Would he advise the house if an agreement has been reached between the Canadian Transport Commission and the province of Ontario on the cost sharing of subsidies on intra-provincial ferries?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is difficult for the Chair to determine whether the question as asked is one of urgency. If it is urgent, perhaps the hon. member would not mind returning for the purpose of considering the question at the time of adjournment.

WATER RESOURCES

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS IN NATIONAL
PARKS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I want to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development a question arising out of an answer that was given to a question on the order paper. This question is connected with the national problem of the pollution of our rivers. Can the minister assure the house that the national parks under federal jurisdiction will be accommodated with proper sewage treatment plants this year?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, if I am well informed, the department will take the necessary steps to build a sewage treatment plant there as soon as possible, maybe this year.

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder if I might ask a supplementary question, since this promise has been made for two years, now. Is there an allowance in the estimates to establish such a plant to protect rivers in western