

[English]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is not directly related to the topic of the previous questions, but due to the urgency of the matter I believe it is in order. I wonder if the Postmaster General is aware of the pornographic literature which is being circulated through the mails, and whether any action is being taken about it.

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, the department has been aware of this since last Thursday. I may say that the material is certainly pornographic; it is obscene and disgusting. The department is taking the following steps: Any person who fills in and returns the card in an attempt to purchase from Evicco Film Company of Copenhagen, Denmark, this kind of film will find he is wasting his time and postage. The various main post offices across the country have been alerted. We are also going to take special steps to prevent the transmission of any such mail to Denmark through the international airports at Montreal and Toronto.

Second, Mr. Speaker, though this material is being distributed in plain envelopes with first class postage affixed and no identification, we are making every attempt to find its source. Of course we would pursue the persons concerned under the appropriate section of the Post Office Act.

Third, and I think I may express a personal opinion, I am so overwhelmed with the nastiness of the material that I certainly would ask the Department of Justice to give serious thought to taking criminal proceedings against the people if we find those responsible.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): May I ask a supplementary question. I realize there have been meetings going on with regard to Saturday delivery, and I wonder if at the commencement of the second reading stage of the post office bill we could be given an indication by the minister that he will be able to announce some measure that will make rural mail subscribers happy. This question can be answered by yes or no.

Mr. Kierans: I will make a declaration at that time, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of, I assume it would be, the Secretary of State for External

Inquiries of the Ministry

Affairs in respect of this pornographic literature that was referred to earlier in a question put to the Postmaster General. Has the Danish government been informed that the return address of this material is in Denmark?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not so informed our ambassador in Denmark, but I will investigate and see whether this would be a useful thing to do.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Postmaster General.

As Saturday seems to be the least appropriate day to close post offices, has the minister thought about a different day to apply this new policy?

[English]

HARBOURS

ROBERTS BANK, B.C.—INQUIRY AS TO JURISDICTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport, and I welcome him back in the house. Pursuant to the undertaking given to the house yesterday by the Prime Minister in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition, is the minister today in a position to make a statement regarding the Roberts Bank development, and specifically where the federal government exercises jurisdiction and where the provincial government exercises jurisdiction?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be back in the house, and to see my hon. friend in his place.

An hon. Member: He has been in the house all the time.

Mr. Hellyer: In reply to the question I may say that some time ago I advised the house we in the department have undertaken studies in conjunction with the Canadian Transport Commission to determine what changes, if any, there should be with regard to port administration and control in so far as the future is concerned. At the present time there are different systems in operation in different