

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

A little earlier I wanted to rise on a question of privilege but I was not allowed to do so. Right now, I am not blaming the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) for trying to do the same thing, it is his right. But he rises on a question of privilege and is recognized. Therefore, here is my point: have all hon. members in this house the right to be treated the same and then, can some hon. members rise on a question of privilege and be recognized whereas others will not be allowed to do so? Mr. Speaker, that is my question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is very easy to give the hon. member an answer.

He knows that, according to the rules of the house, supplementary questions are left to the exclusive discretion of the Chair. When the Chair feels that there is no matter under consideration, it is not in order to recognize a supplementary question. If the hon. member for Lapointe will kindly listen to me, that is why I told him that I was not ready, a moment ago, to recognize a supplementary question. I told him that I would not forget, at the first opportunity, to allow him to ask another question on the same matter.

[*English*]

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry. In view of the representations made by the Oshawa city council, based on the serious lay-offs because of the Canada-U.S. automobile pact, can the minister advise whether the proposal that Oshawa should be designated a special area for the purpose of tax concessions to industry, so that a diversification of industry can take place in that city, is receiving favourable consideration, and can he advise whether a decision will be announced soon in respect of this very important matter?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the city of Oshawa requested that it be designated under the designated area program. The unfortunate fact of the matter is that it would not be possible under the law passed by parliament some time ago for this to take place. It just cannot be done under our present law. What they did ask was that some program providing comparable advantages to Oshawa be made available by the federal government. Having regard to the difficult situation of the automobile workers and the fairly large numbers laid off in Oshawa, we are trying hard to see what can be done.

[*Mr. Grégoire.*]

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious lay-offs, could the minister give any indication how soon Oshawa may hear whether some such program in this regard can be put into effect?

**Mr. Drury:** As soon as we can, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****STEPS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS  
AND AVERT STRIKE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

With regard to the strike by the postal workers, which should normally occur around mid-November, has the minister been informed that this strike could very well start November 5 next? What is his department doing now to improve the offers made to the postal workers union?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first part of the question, it is somewhat hypothetical; I am still hopeful that a postal strike will not occur before the holidays.

With regard to the second part of the question, the department is studying all the recommendations made by Judge Montpetit, those dealing mainly with the Post Office Department and those dealing with the other departments and federal bodies, as well as the recommendations affecting also the labour unions.

[*English*]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GREAT  
BRITAIN—TIME OF ASSUMPTION OF  
NEW POSITION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his capacity as minister of that department and as Acting Prime Minister. In view of the announcement that Right Hon. Lionel Chevrier, former minister of transport and more recently high commissioner to Great Britain, is leaving his post to assume the position of commissioner general for visiting heads of state during centennial year, will the minister inform the house when it is expected he will leave his present post and assume his new one?