

What steps does the minister intend to take to improve the quality of postal delivery and thereby protect the efforts of Canadian weekly newspapers to dispense news quickly and efficiently to readers across the country, and I might say not to the immediate area—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I can only say that if the newspapers would reflect news with the same efficiency as postmen deliver mail, we would have better news services in this country.

Mr. Darling: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect for the Postmaster General's reply, I can agree with him so far as daily newspapers are concerned, but not in the case of weekly newspapers. Therefore, I wonder what he will do to help them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AIRPORTS

REPLACEMENT OF CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES BY RCMP SECURITY GUARDS—POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. What action is the minister taking to curtail the phase-out of the Corps of Commissionaires members who are performing security duties at national airports and who are to be replaced by members of the RCMP. Hopefully, the minister will find alternative jobs for these people.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this matter but will inquire and see if I can report to the hon. gentleman tomorrow.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Will the minister determine not only the capabilities of veterans, for the performance of such duties as I mentioned at national airports, but also make sure that veterans are given enough time to find alternative employment which may come within the scope of the endeavours of the Corps of Commissionaires and of the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to work with my colleagues, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and look into this question.

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HARBOURS

HALIFAX—ALLEGED COMMITMENT CONCERNING SHED RENTAL POLICY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In

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light of the very serious action taken by the chairman of the National Harbours Board in denying an undertaking given by the board's vice-chairman to the mayor of Halifax, to the effect that no change in shed rental policy will take place without the concurrence of the Halifax port authority, and in light of the mayor of Halifax's position to the effect that the board should adhere to that undertaking, is the minister now prepared to give this House an undertaking honouring the commitment given by the vice-chairman of that board.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I will have to get in touch with the representative of the National Harbours Board, to know exactly what commitment was given to the mayor of Halifax.

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for undertaking to advise himself of the situation. I wonder, because of the serious deterioration of relations involved in this matter whether, once he has advised himself, he will consider meeting with the port of Halifax people and other interested people, labour, and so on, with a view to resolving this serious impasse.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think that is a good suggestion.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REASON FOR FAILURE TO DONATE JEANS SEIZED BY DEPARTMENT TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs relates to the question on the order paper answered on April 7. Can the minister explain to the House why 7,987 pairs of jeans, worth approximately \$40,000, which were seized by his department were recently buried instead of being donated to charitable institutions.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I think I gave the answer, Mr. Speaker. This has been suggested to the company. Unfortunately, it has not followed our suggestion.

[English]

Mr. Fraser: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House if the policy is to seize clothing that does not comply with labelling regulations there is no discretion as to what can be done with the objects which are seized, or is the minister telling the House that the policy of the department is to give these articles back to the owner? If the owner does not destroy them, what happens to them?

● (1430)

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I think the answer I gave in writing was rather complete and demonstrated that the company is keeping the option of doing what it wants with