

Use of Post Office Box 4430

an offence for anyone other than the postal authorities to "undertake to collect, convey or deliver any letter within Canada."

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that not only was this mail removed from the post office box but that in many cases such mail was redirected to Members of Parliament on an arbitrary basis without due consideration to determine to whom it should have been directed. Consequently mail intended for one Member of Parliament was misdirected to other Members of Parliament.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that all hon. members have the right to know what happened to this mail following its removal from post office box 4430 and prior to it being delivered. Were tabulations prepared as to quantity, or was any attempt made to prepare mailing lists? If either of these things was done I feel, with all respect, that our rights have been most seriously violated.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cafik: There is one last point, Mr. Speaker, regarding the use of P.O. Box 4430. Many people in Canada may well believe that this is the official way to contact their Member of Parliament. How many may have set that address aside for use at a future date? There is enough alienation in our society without misleading the public as to how to communicate with the members of this House. In view of the importance of this matter I hereby move that the subject matter of this question of privilege be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for report thereon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. G. W. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in regard to the question of privilege that has been raised that I have received hundreds of letters and coupons and they have come to me directly because my constituents know who I am.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Hees: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is now a question of privilege before the House and we cannot have two questions of privilege at the same time; the one before the House is complication enough. The hon. member seeks the

floor either on a point of order or on a question of privilege but I wonder if it is a matter of urgency. If he has a legitimate point of order perhaps I should hear it.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A point of order, Mr. Speaker, which will not take very long. My point is that I believe the hon. member for Ontario did a disservice to this House by not reading that message nearly as well as the Minister of Finance who wrote it out for him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cafik: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Ontario already has one question of privilege. He cannot have two questions of privilege at the same time.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I demand an apology—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has to wait until the Chair has had his say. For the moment the hon. member has to be patient. I wish I had followed my original intention and not recognized the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

I am sure the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings was not seriously suggesting that the statement made by the hon. member for Ontario was not his own or that he was not himself the author of the question of privilege which he has submitted to the House. I am sure the hon. member, who has long experience in the House, knows that he has no right to make this suggestion and I would invite him to confirm the understanding of the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Cafik: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, you may be right in imputing to the hon. member rather facetious motives but I know that neither I nor anyone else in the House has the right to impute motives and I feel that on the basis of what he has said I deserve an apology for an absolutely inaccurate and insulting statement by the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to impute motives in any way. All I did was criticize the hon. member's mode of reading a message that had been prepared for him by another hon. member.