

Privilege

Is the minister satisfied with the Quebec government's two page typewritten report, in the absence of an inquiry, as meeting the requirements of the National Defence Act, and justifying the expense of 22 million tax dollars, the embarrassment of Canada internationally, and a legacy of bitterness between Canada and its native peoples?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, the National Defence Act does not actually say what kind of a report. The report has been provided. I would not want to comment on that further.

What I want to say is that, as the hon. member knows, our Armed Forces personnel were used to assist in aid to civil order at the requisition of the province of Quebec. They carried out their task efficiently and very effectively so that the very difficult issue at Oka was able to be resolved without further bloodshed.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, compared to the \$22 million spent on the military solution at Oka, negotiations in good faith would have resulted in the land claims settlement costing approximately \$4 million.

Would the minister not admit that the government's failure to negotiate in good faith, and to fulfil commitments it made to the Mohawks many years ago, has resulted in military costs five times in excess of the costs of the land claims solution, in addition to the unquantifiable costs to Canadian society that will be borne for years to come?

• (1500)

The hon. member certainly knows that we are engaged in a process of negotiation with the people of the Mohawk community, the Mohawk Negotiating Coalition at Kanesatake, and the government. As it was doing before the unfortunate events which commenced on July 15, the government will resolve those matters in an honourable fashion on behalf of the Mohawk people at Kanesatake.

CANADA POST

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada Post.

Last week in my riding I met with the residents of Fredericton Junction, a small village in New Brunswick. My question revolves around the four-tenths of a kilometre policy in relation to rural mail delivery. The post office has arbitrarily decided that the residents of Fredericton Junction who live four-tenths of a kilometre outside the village will now have to have rural mail delivery.

This creates some problems. It is a village that has mostly senior citizens. The physical construction of that town will make it virtually impossible for those residents to erect mail boxes. There is plenty of room in the existing post offices for them to continue to walk to the village post office to receive their mail.

Will the minister send one of his officials, a senior official, to Fredericton Junction to look at the circumstances of that town personally? Also, will he examine the flexibility of that system?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Canada Post offers every Canadian one mode of delivery free of charge, be it door to door, community mailbox, rural route or general delivery. From time to time changes are made, people move and so on, but the general policy is to provide that which has been provided historically.

If the hon. member is suggesting that the policy is not being offered here in an even-handed manner, I will certainly get in touch with Canada Post and ask it to look into the matter. It is a Crown corporation. I cannot order it to do so, but I am sure it will respond to my request.

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PRIVILEGE**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. On October 22, 1990 the member for Western Arctic presented a motion to the House which was adopted by unanimous consent. The