

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

he referred last Friday? Can he give the names of the members, the place of hearing and the date of hearing?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the hon. member for Wellington South is not here. He has put two questions on the subject, and I assured him I would be glad to give information to the house early this week.

I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that a board of review has been established. The chairman will be Mr. Justice Dalton Wells of the court of appeal of Ontario. The two other members will be Mr. Roderigue Bédard, Q.C., associate deputy minister of justice and Mr. G. Douglas McIntyre of the Department of National Revenue. The board will sit on November 23 and other days if necessary. The exact place of hearing has not been determined. It may be in this building or it may be in the justice building. This will be settled by the board of review itself.

There was another point mentioned by the hon. member for Wellington South. He asked if the meetings of the board of review would be in camera or would be open to the public. I would point out to the hon. member for Spadina and other members that while the responsibility for appointing the members of the board of review lies with the Postmaster General, the act goes on to provide that the board of review shall have the powers of a commission under part I of the Inquiries Act, so I presume it will be for the board of review to determine whether the hearings will be open to the public or held in camera.

**OTTAWA—REFUSAL TO CASH OLD AGE PENSION CHEQUES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Postmaster General of which I have sent him notice. Is the minister aware that in Ottawa postal substation No. 47 a postal clerk informs customers that old age pension cheques will be cashed only if the money is to be spent in the store housing that post office; and will he look into this situation?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for having given me notice of the question. I would draw the attention of the hon. member and the house to the fact that post offices, whether they are postal stations or otherwise, are not banking institutions; they are not set

up to cash cheques. However, there is a provision in the manual on financial procedure that government of Canada and provincial government cheques, as well as cheques of crown corporations, may be accepted in payment of postal values and services, providing the patron presenting the cheque is properly identified. There is a further provision that this can only be done on the postmaster's own responsibility, with certain conditions attached.

I might say I had a field officer look into this matter after I received notice of the question this morning, and he informs me that about three weeks ago a person presented a cheque at the post office wicket in question with the request that it be cashed; that there were not sufficient funds in the postal till to cash it, and there was no obligation to cash it. However, the person was told that if he or she wished to cash the cheque it could be presented to the store in which the post office occupies a section, and if the proprietor of the store wished to cash it, it could be cashed there.

**STAMP TO COMMEMORATE BIRTH OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question similar to but more urgent than the one directed to the Postmaster General by my colleague from Grey-Bruce. Is he considering issuing a commemorative stamp to honour the sesquicentennial of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, which is now only about 10 weeks away?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General):** I will have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**TRANSPORT**

**ONTARIO—SHIPPING SPACE FOR BEAN GROWERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport and welcome him back to the house. For some time now I have been endeavouring to get space for a shipment of beans out of Canada. Before the minister left he directed the request to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. This morning I received a letter from Cook Brothers to the effect that no space has been made available as yet.