

residents who do not have home delivery service, and when will he consult them?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, my response to this question is that indeed the Marchment report raised a number of concerns. We are now examining its recommendations and we will comment on them when our operating plan is unveiled.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister meet with the Saint-Léonard—Anjou citizens' committee which is not satisfied with the service? As requested in my May 2 letter, will he meet with the committee before making a decision?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of my colleague's letter dated May 2 in which he asked me to meet with his constituents. Of course I will act on his request before announcing the policy.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

FARM FORECLOSURES LEGISLATION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and deals with promises made to eight farmers who are faced with farm foreclosures. The Minister of Agriculture promised legislation before Christmas. The Minister of Finance had such legislation in his Budget. The Prime Minister himself mentioned it at the end of April and said that there would be legislation before the end of June. Can he now tell us what that legislation will be, and which Minister will be presenting it to the House?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we of course are working to pass what is probably the most exciting and best legislative package that has been passed by any Parliament—

Mr. Broadbent: In the history of mankind.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: — in the history of mankind. That legislation is a priority item and I hope I can count on the support of the Hon. Member in order to put the matter through quickly and expeditiously.

TIMING OF INTRODUCTION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister then explain to the House why the legislation was not put before us prior to Christmas as promised by the Minister of Agriculture? Will we again miss the June deadline set by the Prime Minister himself?

Privilege—Mr. H. Gray

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that the legislation is in the best form possible and has the widest consultation in order to make sure that all Members of the House who look at things objectively will pass it quickly.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the Hon. Member for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke for one question.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

LAKE HURON BOATING ACCIDENT—DISCONTINUANCE OF SEARCH

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, on or about November 9 of last year, a Kitchener, Ontario, couple were assumed to have perished in Lake Huron six days after the initial search and rescue operation was called off. Because of pressure, the Minister ordered another five hours of search on November 6. Why did he ignore the many requests from the family, from the community, and from members of his own caucus to continue the search for a longer period of time?

● (1200)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I presume that question is directed to me. The Associate Minister of National Defence has been dealing with the details of that matter. If the Hon. Member would put his question when the Minister is back in the House on Tuesday, he would be delighted to respond in detail to him.

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I indicated to the Member that it would be for one question.

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PRIVILEGE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST—APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INQUIRY—ALLEGED INTIMIDATION—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) raised a question of privilege on Wednesday on which, at his request, I indicated that I would rule today.

It is clear that no court or inquiry may "call into question statements made by Members of the House of Commons in Parliament" or "pass judgment on the proceedings of the House" or "infringe on the freedom of speech of the House".