

[English]

POST OFFICE

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING SOME METHOD OF CLEARING MAIL IN OFFICES

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the grave injustice being done to hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have money, important merchandise, business contracts, prepaid Christmas mail orders, including Christmas presents for children which cannot be replaced due to insufficient family cash, and other vital mail tied up as a result of the postal strike, may I ask if the Postmaster General can use any mechanism whereby that mail can be released for delivery in the near future, and clear the post office system?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the obvious answer is for the union to come to their senses and bring an end to the strike. In the absence of that, I might mention that 165 post offices are open. The hon. member might relate to me his particular difficulty, as I understand that most Alberta postal office employees are now back at work.

Mr. Towers: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This being a national problem, and the bulk of the mail being tied up in large centres like Toronto and Winnipeg, I do not think action in specific cases will clear the system. I wonder if the minister can do something to clear the system once and for all, so that people can either get their orders filled or money back.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, as we approach Christmas I sum up by saying I would rather be Santa Claus than Scrooge.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INVESTIGATION OF SKY SHOPS—RELATIONSHIP OF DOCUMENTS SEIZED FROM SENATOR GIGUÈRE TO MIRABEL

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Since it has become public knowledge that among documents and effects taken by the RCMP from the apartment adjacent to Senator Giguère's were ledger cards of engineers and architects, can the Solicitor General tell the House whether the engineers and architects involved or any of the documentation taken have any connection with the Mirabel project?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we do not report the details of police investigations while those investigations are still under way.

INVESTIGATION OF SKY SHOPS—POSSIBLE LENGTH OF INVESTIGATION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF SEARCH WARRANT AND INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS SEIZED

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Solicitor General give the House and country any indication of the apparent

Oral Questions

length of time it will take the RCMP to complete those investigations? Are we talking of days, weeks or months? Also, will the minister table the search warrant and documents detailing the inventory of what was taken, since these documents have already been put on display on national television?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I checked with the RCMP and they cannot say definitely when this investigation will be completed. New evidence leads to new sources of inquiry, and so on. It is impossible to give the date—

Mr. MacKay: Does the minister mean a judicial inquiry?

Mr. Allmand: No, Mr. Speaker. The police investigation is proceeding quite well, but we do not discuss details of police inquiries in the House of Commons. If I may answer the second part of the hon. member's question, I will look into the matter, see if the documents can be tabled and report to the House.

INVESTIGATION OF SKY SHOPS—SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. I appreciate that details of police investigations are not released, although the subject matter is often discussed in the House. As a search warrant is only issued after it is sworn that there are reasonable and probable grounds for the belief that an offence has been committed, and as the search warrant under which the police acted in seizing documents from Senator Giguère's office and residence included "all letters, notes, memoranda and other writings relating to the collection of moneys for the Liberal party of Canada" between certain relevant dates, can the Solicitor General say if the subject matter of the police investigation in this instance is whether all or part of the \$95,000 went to the coffers of the treasury of the Liberal party?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I must check that, as well. I saw the information which was sworn in order to obtain that search warrant and I talked to the RCMP about it. They tell me that the investigation is of a broader nature than one merely involving Sky Shops.

* * *

● (1430)

PUBLIC WORKS

LES TERRASSES DE LA CHAUDIÈRE, HULL—ROLE OF SENATOR GIGUÈRE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR PROJECT

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the fact that until recently Senator Giguère was a director of the Campeau Corporation, the company building the \$160 million Les Terrasses de la Chaudière in Hull, Quebec, a multi-million urban commercial complex, of which 1.7 million square feet of office space is to be rented by the federal government, has that senator played any role whatsoever