

*Oral Questions*

minister. Is he seriously considering giving incentives to encourage home ownership in Canada?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** We encouraged those in the last budget which the hon. gentleman's party succeeded in defeating but which the people of Canada reinstated.

**An hon. Member:** Not yet.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** There were further commitments from the Prime Minister during the election campaign, and I am in constant touch with my new colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, as to how to achieve the results which I am sure the hon. gentleman wants to have achieved.

\* \* \*

**TRANSPORT****NEED FOR SAFETY MEASURES ON RAILWAYS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Elmer MacKay (Central Nova):** I have a brief question for the Minister of Transport. Keeping in mind that railway accidents are continuing to increase in this country and in every year since 1969 at least 1,200 railway employees have been injured and approximately 20 killed in the performance of their duties, what steps does the minister propose to take as the responsible minister to bring an end to these conditions and to force the railways to improve safety programs? I hope that in his answer the minister will not bring in the old chestnut and refer to the CTC.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the CTC—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, as you know we are conducting an inquiry each time there is an accident. I know that many members of this House have complained about the efficiency of the system within the department, not only with regard to train accidents but with regard to other accidents as well. I hope we will have a more efficient set up. I do not know whether it will decrease the number of accidents, because of course no country has succeeded in doing that in the past, but I hope we can improve our record.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****SUGAR BEETS—DELAY IN HARVESTING CAUSED BY STRIKE AT SAINT-HYACINTHE PLANT**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Following the labour dispute at the Saint-Hilaire sugar refinery, the management has sent to the sugar beet producers of the region a letter advising them to stop harvest-

[Mr. Grafftey.]

ing for the time being, and consequently some 25 million pounds of sugar may be lost. What step does the minister intend to take and how does he intend to proceed with the help of his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture so as to protect the interests of both producers and consumers?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take notice of this question. I will hasten to give it consideration and reply soon to the hon. member.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SUGAR POLICY**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** I would like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker.

Following the numerous requests already received in this connection, can the minister assure the House of the government's intention to draft a national sugar policy in Canada, a policy based upon adequate tariff protection and upon a production quota provided to sugar beet producers?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** I answered that question last week at which time I said I would be submitting a paper to my colleagues very shortly.

\* \* \*

**POST OFFICE****GOVERNMENT ACTION TO IMPROVE SERVICE**

**Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the Postmaster General on his new appointment. My question to him is as follows. In view of the shambles existing in the Post Office, and in particular the recent mail test conducted by the *Calgary Herald* which showed that 86 per cent of letters and parcels mailed from Calgary to points across Canada arrived late or not at all, will the minister tell the House what steps he has taken to provide a proper mail service which Canadians and especially Canadian businesses badly need?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** I accept the hon. gentleman's kind words but not his allegation. The postal code is in extensive existence in only two locations, one is Calgary and the other Ottawa. It is an admitted fact that there have been some problems in the city of Calgary which I think will straighten themselves out. However, I must warn the House that the introduction of any form of automation in an organization as large as the Post Office is bound to have some disruptive effects, and that is what we are trying to straighten out.