

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Ontario-Quebec border east of Cornwall is still indefinite, would the minister advise whether early action is contemplated, in conjunction with provincial authorities, to fix this border?

(Translation):

Hon. Paul Martineau (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question was only brought to my attention when I came in the house. I shall take it as a notice and answer it as soon as possible.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**THREATENED SLOW DOWN OF EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General?

(Text):

Before I do so may I congratulate the government for the addition of charm to the post office department by the appointment of the present Postmaster General.

Has the Postmaster General been informed that the London postmen of the confederated association of letter carriers have recently decided upon strike action to support their pay claims and that about a week ago, for the same reason, the Canadian postal employees association decided to adopt a work to rule attitude which would have the effect of slowing down operations?

If the answer is yes, will the minister tell the house—

Mr. Speaker: Order. In the latter portion of his question the hon. member clearly indicated that it was one that should go on the order paper. In any event questions should deal with matters of urgency and the matters which the hon. gentleman has raised have been before the public for some ten days or two weeks. I would again appeal to hon. members to be discriminatory in their questions.

Mr. Denis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I point out that the confederated association of letter carriers represents some 7,200 people and that there are 10,500 people involved in the Canadian postal employees association. They are to vote on strike action and I consider this an urgent matter. I want to know what steps will be taken in order to solve the situation.

PENSIONS**INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT OF PROVINCES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister which has reference to something that happened this

afternoon. In view of the declaration the other day that a request for an amendment to the British North America Act regarding contributory pensions would be recommended to the house when all the provinces had agreed thereto, does the fact that this resolution was on the order paper today and has been transferred to government orders mean that all the provinces have now agreed? If not, could the Prime Minister state what stage has been reached in the negotiations or conversations with Quebec and Newfoundland?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, most of the questions this afternoon have been put for a purpose, and many of them have been very clear and indicative of a desire to hold off the Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This one is not in that category. As a matter of fact, I communicated with both the premier of Newfoundland, the guardian of free speech in that province, and with the premier of Quebec. I have not had a reply from the former but I did have a reply from the premier of Quebec advising me that this was a matter which would have to be dealt with by the provincial legislature. Apparently there has been a dissolution of the legislature in that province, so that is the present position of the question.

Mr. Knowles: As a supplementary question may I ask the Prime Minister whether this order will be proceeded with during this session, or is it intended to wait until the government has had an affirmative reply from both these provinces?

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is on the order paper and, as is stated in the speech from the throne, when these two provinces have given consideration to the matter it will then be brought before the house. I do not know when the expiry of the writs takes place in Quebec but I hope that when it does we shall have co-operation from the province of Quebec, and I would also ask the assistance of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate who controls to such a degree the premier of Newfoundland.

(Translation):

CROP INSURANCE**EXTENSION TO EASTERN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Vincent Drouin (Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. I am sorry I did not give him notice of it.

Is it the intention of the government to extend to eastern farmers the benefits of crop insurance?