Inquiries of the Ministry

arrangements and the sale of government securities. I plan to make a statement on the matter at a later date after learning more about the views and actions of the stock exchanges and provincial authorities.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether Royal Securities Corporation Limited will continue to enjoy access to the rediscount facilities of the Bank of Canada if it is owned by a foreign corporation?

Mr. Benson: This, of course, is one of the matters being considered by the bank and by officials of my department.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister feel that it would be only fair to all concerned if the company that is planning the take-over knew what its relationship would be to the Bank of Canada and the financial structure of Canada generally?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking the minister to express an opinion. Such a question is not in order.

[*Translation*]
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
INQUIRY AS TO USE OF POST OFFICE BOX

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Communications.

Does he intend to make an investigation and take the necessary measures to prohibit the use of Post Office Box 1691, of the Montreal District 101, which is used presently to give rapid and courteous service to all homosexuals asking that documentation be sent to them at home?

Mr. Speaker: I think the question should be put on the order paper.

[*English*]
IMMIGRATION
REGULATIONS CLASSIFYING JEWS FROM IRAQ, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND SYRIA

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will Jews now in Iraq, the United Arab Republic and Syria be considered as refugees if they apply for immigration visas?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the persons to whom my hon. friend refers do not come within the ordinary definition of a refugee. They cannot be considered as such because they are still in their country of residence. Normally the accepted international definition of a refugee is a person who has left his country of origin and who is unwilling to return because of fear of persecution.

I would tell my hon. friend that we have had discussions with respect to the possibility of assisting the persons he has in mind. My colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I have been collaborating in our discussions with the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is any consideration being given to setting out regulations on the subject of refugees, so that instead of dealing with each case as it arises there is a code to which reference might be made?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be desirable. We have expressed our intention of adhering to the international convention on the protocol, and perhaps when the act is revised there ought to be a clear cut clarification of our over-all policy toward refugees. It is true that from time to time special arrangements have been made that I think, on balance, were of great advantage to the persons affected, and there may be some advantages in flexibility.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the house whether United States deserters and draft dodgers are considered refugees?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether that question is in order. If the minister thinks it ought to be answered, so be it.

Mr. MacEachen: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE
DAIRYING—FAILURE OF COMMISSION TO REPLY TO CREAM PRODUCERS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I apologize for the roughness of my voice, but the nature of the question demands that I ask it in any event.

Why is it that the Canadian Dairy Commission is not replying to inquiries made by the cream producers, who after waiting several