

Inquiries of the Ministry

for Manitoba arrives in bags according to the destination on the mail bag. If the destination of the bag is Winnipeg, all parcels therein are cleared by customs at Winnipeg, even though particular parcels may be addressed to other points beyond Winnipeg. There is no down-grading of the service but, on the contrary, it saves double handling by customs and consequent delay. If bags of parcels are addressed to other customs ports in Manitoba they are, of course, processed at those points.

FISHERIES**MANITOBA—COMPENSATION TO THOSE AFFECTED BY BAN ON FISHING IN CERTAIN LAKES AND RIVERS**

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, but since he is not here perhaps his Parliamentary Secretary could answer it. In light of the statement by the Manitoba Federation of Fishermen that compensation is urgently required by June 1 for fishermen who have been put out of work by the closure of various lakes and rivers, could the minister indicate when conversations between his department and the relevant officials in Manitoba will be completed, and also whether the department is carrying on conversations with the Department of Labour with respect to unemployment insurance compensation for people so displaced?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I do know that they hope to be able to provide loans to the fishermen by the time the hon. member suggests. As to the other part of his question I am not that sure. I shall have to check and let him know later.

[*Translation*]

EXPO 70**DISPLAYING OF CANADIAN FLAG AT QUEBEC PAVILION**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

We have been informed by a newscast from Osaka that the Canadian flag is being flown on one of the six flagpoles at the Quebec pavilion upon instructions from the new Quebec government of Premier Robert Bourassa. Therefore, I should like to ask the minister whether this initiative by the government of Quebec has been taken as a result of representations by the federal government?

[Mr. Côté (Longueuil).]

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

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ROUMANIA—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS**

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I have a question on foreign aid for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A number of countries are sending emergency help to flood-ravaged areas of Roumania. Does Canada not consider it has some responsibility to help the people made homeless in this catastrophe?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have looked into this situation and I am very pleased to say that we have decided to provide \$25,000 to assist the victims of these recent floods. This will be provided in the ordinary way through the Canadian Red Cross Society, which also has funds of its own for this purpose.

HOUSING**NHA LOANS FOR CAPITAL WORKS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. It has to do with the new policy that the government has now implemented with respect to loans to municipalities for sewer construction. As I understand it, as of April the government is prepared to advance only two-thirds of the amount by way of loan for a project, without any guarantee with respect to additional loans. Would the government immediately reassess the present policy affecting loans for capital works under the National Housing Act in order that a policy can be evolved which would give the assurance of continued federal participation, thereby encouraging long-term municipal planning? I ask the question because apparently the government has unilaterally brought in a program which has frustrated—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member can ask the question but he should not argue his case.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, there has not been a change in the policy for sewage treatment loans made on behalf of the federal govern-