

INQUIRY AS TO TAKING OF OPINION POLLS FOR
CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State perhaps also for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada. In view of statements made on the CBC program "Weekend" last Sunday regarding the public attitude toward unemployment, in this case blaming labour for all our unemployment and whitewashing the government, can the minister assure the House that Information Canada has not been taking opinion polls for the CBC?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF CERTAIN OPERATIONS FROM
CALGARY TO EDMONTON

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question asked recently by the hon. member for Calgary Centre, but it is a rather detailed answer and I am afraid the House would adjourn before I came to an end. May I table that answer and may it be taken as read?

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[English]

[Editor's note: the answer follows:]

The transfer of administrative activities from Calgary to Edmonton is an organizational move wherein the overall responsibility for the management and administration of postal services in the province of Alberta will be concentrated in one district office located in Edmonton.

As part of the general reorganization now under way, the department is adhering to a general policy of boundaries of district offices conforming to provincial boundaries. Where the workload justifies more than one district may be established. Districts are divided into areas and area managers appointed who are responsible for the administration of postal services in these areas.

Adherence to provincial boundaries has resulted in the transfer of responsibility for 50 per cent of the offices formerly coming under the jurisdiction of the Calgary district office to the provincial district offices located in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

With the transfer of these offices the need of two district offices in Alberta no longer exists as the administration of the postal services in Alberta can be consolidated and effectively managed under the jurisdiction of the district office located in Edmonton. Area managers as an adjunct of the district office in Edmonton will continue to be located in Calgary responsible for the administration of postal services in the southern part of the province.

23786—37½

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE INCREASE—DISCUSSION BY
MINISTER WITH CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It concerns the request of Canadian railways for a 6 per cent increase in freight rates which, if granted, could very well aggravate the already critical unemployment situation. Has the minister discussed this request with the Canadian Transport Commission? If so, what have been the results of such discussions?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed this with the CTC. As I have said on many occasions, this is a decision entirely within the competence of the railways concerned. They, I understand, filed notice of this intention before the CTC, but I am neither obligated nor, indeed, do I have the right to consult with the CTC on a matter of this kind.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS TO CON-
FERENCES IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES BE MODIFIED

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the Secretary of State with respect to the statement made by the Hon. Jean-Paul L'Allier, the Quebec representative at the Conference of French-speaking countries, concerning the composition of the Canadian delegation, to the effect that the composition of the said delegation was ridiculous and prejudicial to the effective operation of those conferences.

Does the Secretary of State intend to change the composition of these delegations and if so, along what lines?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I was given to understand, Mr. Speaker, that this statement made by the Quebec minister had been misinterpreted or inaccurately reproduced by the newspapers. In any case, it would not be in accordance with the facts had it been done as mentioned in the newspapers. The delegation which attended the Lomé Conference did a good job, the results of which will be shown as most fruitful.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE INCREASE—APPLICATION OF
COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the minister say whether this department or the combines investigation branch is investigating the apparent togetherness of the Railway Association of Canada, which represents 22 railways, as indicated by their announcement of a 6 per cent increase in freight rates? If not, will he give consideration to introducing a provision in the Combines Investigation Act to take care of this situation?