

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): This matter is now under active consideration.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SOUTH VIET NAM—ATTENDANCE AT
PARIS PEACE TALKS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My question is for the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman assure the house that Canada has lived up to its international image as a peace keeper by actively encouraging the government of South Viet Nam to attend the Paris peace talks which are set to begin as soon as South Vietnamese representatives attend?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): I will take that question as notice.

[Translation]

INCOME TAX**INQUIRY AS TO MODIFICATION OF CEILING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

Can he tell the house whether he intends to change or to cancel the \$120 ceiling on the new tax increase?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to the hon. member that he should put his proposal during the budget debate which will, I believe, be resumed within the next few minutes.

[English]

AGRICULTURE**SUGAR BEETS—PHASING OUT OF SUBSIDY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Mac. T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture further to the one I asked him in October relative to the phasing out payment of \$60 an acre to sugar beet growers. When can farmers expect to receive these cheques? Can the minister give us an approximate date.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I do not think I can give an approximate date for the arrival of those cheques, but I can advise the hon. member that we now have the data, or the statistical information we need in order that the necessary proceedings can go forward.

[Mr. Moores.]

Mr. McCutcheon: Would it be safe to assume that this would be in the year 1968?

Mr. Olson: I think it would be safe to assume that the minister will give a more detailed reply tomorrow.

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**ST. LÉONARD, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, a week ago the member for Charlevoix asked the Minister of Justice why the house of the chairman of the school integration movement at Saint-Léonard is kept under guard by the R.C.M.P. The minister replied, in the absence of the Solicitor General, that when the latter was in the house, he would give us that information. Can the Solicitor General of Canada give us that information today?

[English]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The R.C.M.P. were in Saint-Léonard, but on a matter which had no connection with the school integration activities going on there. They were there in connection with an entirely unrelated matter.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**CRITERIA USED IN PHASING OUT PROCEDURE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether it is the intention of his department to circulate the criteria being used by the department in connection with the phasing out of rural post offices.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): I think we discussed this matter at considerable length during the passage of the post office bill. There are approximately 2,500 post offices from which the revenue is less than \$445 a year. We are comparing this with the cost of operating those offices, and we are making a number of decisions about closing them. But I think the basic consideration is the economics of the situation.

Mr. Peters: Is it the intention of the department to use criteria additional to the one the hon. gentleman has mentioned, and would he be prepared to provide details to members who are keenly concerned about the future of rural post offices?