

Canada Post. The Minister opted for telex, which I think is far more reliable.

Speaking of Canada Post, Mr. Speaker, my constituents and Canadian businessmen have been complaining about poor mail delivery, especially business mail. We are getting letters and telephone calls daily about this.

So I want to congratulate the Minister on having selected another means of delivering the microfiche to the 31 regional offices of Veterans Affairs Canada.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the Minister's statement. I trust that with his political experience, he will be able to deal satisfactorily with this problem and will deal as quickly with any other problems that may arise in his department. I hope the other Ministers will take a leaf from the Minister's book in this respect.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister and I want to thank him for having acted as responsibly as he did by making this statement before the House today.

[*English*]

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I too want to thank the Minister and his office for making me aware of this particular problem yesterday and for giving me the opportunity to discuss with the Minister the type of information that was stored on this microfiche. I found it refreshing as well that as soon as the Minister found out about this, he immediately ordered a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding this particular incident.

● (1120)

I am also assured that the information contained on the microfiche is such that the veterans and their families should not be concerned about its confidentiality. It is very limited in the information it provides. Veterans and their families should have no great concern about personal information which may be lying around out there and which could be a threat to their privacy and security.

I had the opportunity of reading the chronological sequence of events which took place between December 17 when those packages were mailed out, and January 13 when the Minister was informed. It seemed to me as I read through these events that the Minister should have been informed by his officials long before he was. I am sure the Minister has made known his views to his officials. I am also quite interested in why it took between December 29, a Monday—and I can appreciate that the festive season was involved—and January 15, some 18 days, before the RCMP were asked to investigate. It seems to me to be far too long before the police investigation was conducted.

In conclusion, personal information on Canadians which is stored in computers has to be secure. There have been incidents over the past several months which clearly indicate that security in all government Departments requires some re-examination. While I fully appreciate the efforts of the

Petitions

Minister as soon as it came to his attention to make sure everything was done to protect veterans and their families, I would also say to other Ministers of the Crown, let this be an example. If they have not already done so, I seriously urge them to sit down with their department officials responsible for information stored in computers and make damn sure the information is secure. This is for the protection of not only government departments but individual Canadians who could be seriously affected, in circumstances other than the present one, by a violation of privacy.

Again, congratulations to the Minister, and on that note I will not say anything else.

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ELECTIONS, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURE

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House in both official languages the first report of the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure. The report is presented as a result of the Government's discussion paper entitled "Lobbying and the Registration of Paid Lobbyists", which was referred to the committee in February of 1986. Our work was interrupted by the summer recess and the termination of the first session of this Parliament. However, through hard work and long hours we grappled with the subject, and I am pleased to tell you that the report I place before the House today, recommending the implementation of a registration system for paid lobbyists, has the unanimous support of the representatives on the committee from all Parties of this House.

I would like to especially thank the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria), the Hon. Member for Okanagan—Similkameen (Mr. King) and the Hon. Member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley (Mr. McCuish) for their important contribution to this work, along with two staff members, the Clerk of the Committee, Sandy Birch, and Mr. Bruce Carson from the Library of Parliament. All of those individuals have allowed us to come together with a unanimous report which I think is both topical and significant.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PETITIONS

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition from a large number of people in Scarborough, Pickering, Agincourt, Whitby and