

[English]

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is not in the form of an instruction, although that point was discussed rather thoroughly as a result of the Wilson case.

POST OFFICE

INCREASE IN SECOND-CLASS MAIL RATES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, I shall not recite the preamble to my question: I hope it will still be intelligible. I ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Justice whether the second-class mailing rate increases, due to start April 1, will be halted.

Mr. Stanfield: These government members would not know the answer.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General and I would have to take the question up with him.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, since the matter involves several government departments, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer either. I am not sure what the intention of the question is, and will therefore have to answer in the same way as did the Minister of Finance.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, it seems that I should recite the preamble, which is as follows: Since today is the last clear chance in Parliament to stop the statutory increase in second-class mailing rates which is to become effective on April 1, may I ask—etc.

Mr. Trudeau: I thank the hon. member for the preamble. I will try to give him the post-script later.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FEDERAL COURT BILL

MEASURE RESPECTING CONSTITUTION, JURISDICTION, ADMINISTRATION, ETC.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice and Attorney General) moved that Bill C-192, respecting the Federal Court of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Federal Court Bill

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think those of us who attended in the House today will agree this is one of Parliament's good days because the Prime Minister and the leaders of the parties showered tributes on two very distinguished hon. members who have enjoyed the confidence of the people they have represented for almost a third of a century. Both hon. gentlemen deserved the great, unanimous tribute of the House of Commons. They have also enjoyed the good opinions of their fellow citizens for many years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith), my senior colleague representing Ottawa Centre, is present in the House and I therefore enjoy this happy opportunity to tell him, on behalf of his fellow Members of Parliament representing this metropolitan area, that we admire him for his good work, good judgment, capacity for friendship and loyalty to principle, and we salute him as the senior elected representative, in terms of years of service, of the people of Ottawa.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): There is not much that I can add to what has been said about the right hon. gentleman for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). May I say that he is undoubtedly one of the political and parliamentary giants of his age in Canada. I will leave it at that and say we sincerely admire his great abilities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Bill C-192 respecting the Federal Court of Canada, the bill for which I bear responsibility, received first reading on March 2. It is designed to effect very substantial changes in the administration of justice in this country at the federal level. In so far as court reorganization is concerned, the bill represents the first significant reorganization of the Federal Trial Court since it was first established in 1875.

For the past 95 years litigants before the Court of Exchequer or the Exchequer Court of Canada have enjoyed but one appeal, namely, an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. I might mention here that no hidden meaning or significance ought to be injected into our abandoning the historical name "Exchequer Court". In truth, the court is no longer the exchequer court; that is, it is no