

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister will have to give that opinion privately to the hon. member.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PROPOSED RATE INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Postmaster General. Having in mind the government's declared intention of combating inflation, I wonder whether the minister could make an early statement as to how this policy is related to his proposal to increase the ordinary postal rates by 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for a statement that would normally be made on motions.

[Translation]

REPORTED DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF POST OFFICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General.

Will restrictions imposed upon government expenditures affect the proposed construction of post offices in various municipalities, among others, those at Saint-Casimir and at Saint-Alban in the Champlain district. These seem to be put off indefinitely. Could the minister let us know the government policy in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I suggest to the hon. member that this question should be placed on the order paper.

[English]

POLLUTION

INQUIRY AS TO RESEARCH PILOT PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Walter Deakon (High Park): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister please advise the house whether he has planned any pilot projects of a research nature with the object of the elimination of the pollution of our air and water resources?

Hon. J. C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, some such pilot projects are now under consideration by the department, along with a general study of the problem.

[Later:]

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that a question has already been asked today of the minister of health and welfare in regard to water and air pollution, would he get together with the minister and decide which of them will answer questions of policy regarding water and air pollution?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I understood that the question was directed to the minister of health and welfare. Many of these subject matters cover several departments, and I take it that ministers will answer within their competence when questions are directed to them.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether the government intends to proceed shortly to bring some order out of chaos on the pollution policy?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, any government policy in this area will be announced in the proper manner. As the hon. member knows, the question of pollution was referred to in the throne speech.

GRAIN

WHEAT—STEPS TO MAINTAIN PRICE UNDER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister aware of the difficulties arising under the international grains agreement with regard to grading, which is having a softening effect on the price of wheat? If he is aware of this problem, what is the Canadian government prepared to do about it, in order to enforce the terms of the international grains agreement?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is also aware that there is a debate among wheat exporters as to what is the cause and who is the culprit, and that some countries are accusing each other of selling at less than the price agreed under the international grains arrangement. These accusations are refuted by each country, one after the other, and I understand that it is extremely difficult to assess these prices and to know