

*Ministerial Statements*

December 17. It was put in the mail in sufficient time to bear the Vancouver postmark of December 17.

**Mr. Rinfret:** I must reiterate my statement as to the advertising that was put in the papers. When we put that advertising in the papers we did not anticipate that there would be the large flow of mail that there has been this year—much more, in fact, than in any previous year. Nor did we anticipate that there would be the worst series of snowstorms we have had in many decades. All the delivery systems and distribution systems in all cities have been disrupted. We have tried in all ways imaginable to make deliveries, and made as many as four or five deliveries on the day before Christmas so that all things would arrive in time for Christmas.

Then, we employed more than 25,000 additional helpers for sorting and for letter carrying duties. And, sir, I do not think there is anything possible we could have done more than we have done.

**Mr. Pouliot:** At last, Mr. Speaker, I agree entirely with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and with the Postmaster General (Mr. Rinfret), too. I thank the leader of the opposition because he has supplied the government with the strongest possible argument for the construction of a new government building at the earliest possible date at Riviere du Loup.

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT**

PRIVILEGE, MR. GARSON—CORRECTION OF STATEMENTS IN DEBATE ON PRICE FIXING

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. I should like to say that I referred in the house on Thursday last and again yesterday to a complaint under section 498A of the Criminal Code. I made this reference for the purpose of illustrating the use to which the section could be put, and the facts I gave were from my recollection of an informal conversation with the commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act in which he gave me general information about pending cases. Speaking from my recollection of this conversation, I indicated that the matter had been closed on the basis of no offence having been established. Since the house rose last night I checked with the commissioner and found that I was incorrect in stating that the case is closed. The complaint is still under investigation, and I wish to correct the record in that respect. I do not think I should say more since the case is still under inquiry.

And then, while I am on my feet, I think I should make reference to the fact that in

[Mr. Drew.]

response to a question by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) I stated that the case to which I have just referred was the only case in which section 498A of the Criminal Code had been invoked. However, the commissioner sent to my office a note indicating that in the recent glass prosecution in Ontario a charge under section 498A was referred to the grand jury, and that although the grand jury brought in a true bill and the parties pleaded guilty to the main charge under section 498, the grand jury did not think that the evidence submitted to it warranted their bringing in a bill on the charge under section 498A.

**RIGHT HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL**

DETAILS OF VISIT TO CANADA IN JANUARY

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that government notices of motion come before the orders of the day will be called, and that on one of those government notices of motion there may be considerable debate, perhaps I might be permitted at this time to refer to the forthcoming visit to Canada of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

I have been in communication with Mr. Churchill from time to time about his proposed visit to Canada and the United States, and the dates were finally settled only late yesterday. They have already been announced in London. I hope that the further information that has come over the radio about the terrible storms along the coasts of England, and the delay occasioned to the *Queen Mary* will not require a change in the schedule that had been arranged for Mr. Churchill's visit. I might say there has been no information so far of any change being required.

As I indicated some time ago, Mr. Churchill did not wish to make more than one major speech while in Canada. It was suggested some time ago that the speech should be made at a state dinner in Ottawa, and should be broadcast. Mr. Churchill has accepted that suggestion.

The date which has now been fixed is Monday, January 14, and it is the intention of the government to have invitations sent to all members of both houses of parliament, including of course the lady members, although the dinner would otherwise be a dinner for men only, since Mr. Churchill is not being accompanied by Mrs. Churchill on this occasion.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Before proceeding with government notices of motion, does the house wish me to call the order for questions?