

**Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice):** I have not heard of the case but will look into it, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for the suggestion.

#### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

##### REPORTED REFUSAL OF MEDICAL AND FIRST AID PARCELS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Postmaster General took notice of the question three or four days ago, I should like to ask him whether he is now in a position to explain why certain medical supplies which were sent by parcel post by the Canadian Mennonite committee and were accepted by the Canadian post office were turned back at the point of shipment in San Francisco. Does the minister know whether this action contravenes in any way the undertakings of the world postal union?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I answered that question two or three days ago.

#### PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

##### REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF REPORT ON ELECTION EXPENSES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the clear statement in the speech from the throne of May 8 that the report of the committee on election expenses would be referred to the committee on privileges and elections for study so that legislation might be introduced on the basis of that study, can the Prime Minister say when this report will be referred to the committee so its work can proceed?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I will be very glad to look into that question and see if the matter could be dealt with shortly.

• (3:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

#### SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. The house again in committee of supply, estimates of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development for the fiscal year ending March 31,

#### Supply—Forestry and Rural Development

1968. Vote No. 1 will be found on page 182 of the blue book and the detail of services on page 184.

##### DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Departmental administration, \$1,714,500.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall this item carry?

**Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on agriculture, forestry and rural development considered the estimates of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development for 1967-68 during seven sittings, and on July 6, in its report to the house, it recommended that the department's estimates for 1967-68 be approved.

At the sittings of the committee, I was able to explain to the members the objectives of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development and some of the department's senior officials explained in turn each of the department's programs and answered numerous questions which the members of the standing committee saw fit to put to them.

I do not intend today to deal at length with the department's objectives and policies. I think that the report of the committee and the minutes of the proceedings enable hon. members to understand what the department is trying to do.

However, I should like to make a few remarks in order to allow all the members to study the estimates in the light of what seems to be the policy of the department.

May I at the beginning of this session pay tribute to my predecessors who assumed, since 1960, the political direction of the department. I am referring to the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming), who was head of the department from October 1960 to March 1963, to the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin), who has been appointed minister in March 1963, and to the hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. John R. Nicholson), my immediate predecessor, who was the minister from April 1963 to February 1964. Those three ministers have given the department that kind of leadership which, I hope, I will be able to continue, and I know I have their entire sympathy when it comes to the discussion of the estimates of the department, especially today.

In the forestry division, we must remember that the department is concerned with research only; in other words, we are not responsible for forest management which