

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

PROSECUTION OF LETTER CARRIERS PARTICIPATING IN STRIKE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Has the Public Service Staff Relations Board been asked to give the government leave to prosecute 57 letter carriers in nine cities for participating in the alleged illegal strike?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): This is before the Staff Relations Board, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: Since the minister has indicated that the prosecutions will not likely be proceeded with, how does he justify the expenditure of thousands of dollars for the board to travel to these cities to hear the cases?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is an argument, not a question.

DELAY IN MAIL DELIVERIES

Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Postmaster General. While it may seem to be a trivial matter, I think if it is a recurring one it is of national importance. I have in my hand a letter from a government department postmarked Toronto, February 14. I received this letter at noon today, March 13. Is this the new efficient service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion from the minister.

The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

Mr. Grills: I have a supplementary question in respect of the mail service, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed a supplementary.

Mr. Grills: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is in respect of a letter dated December 30 which was received by me on February 12. This is a delay of approximately six weeks. This letter originated in the Department of National Health and Welfare. I do not like to bring this up, but there must be something wrong. Perhaps they are short staffed, or—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Inquiries of the Ministry

"TIME" AND "READER'S DIGEST"—ALLEGED SPECIAL CONCESSIONS TO U.S. PUBLICATIONS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Since it is the desire of the department of communications to promote a Canadian identity in the broadcasting media, would the department now consider assisting the creation of a Canadian identity through the written press by the elimination of special postal rate concessions granted to certain American publications such as *Time* magazine?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, we have already spent several days on this subject. I said there is no discrimination in favour of or against *Time* magazine and *Reader's Digest*. They pay exactly the same percentage costs as do other magazines in the magazine field.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TELEVISION INTERVIEWS IN AREA ADJACENT TO CHAMBER

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Prime Minister in respect of the matter of television for the house, which he said yesterday would be reconsidered. Will the Prime Minister take into account the charges made about the distorted replay on television outside the house of the debates in the house, such charges having been made by that well known author of parliamentary procedure, the hon. member for York West (Mr. Givens)?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bell: Will the Prime Minister take into account the charges made by backbenchers? Whether they are bums or idiots, they have a role to play in parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Lotbinière.

[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER—INQUIRY AS TO ABOLITION OF OFFICE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Since he told the house yesterday that nobody is now holding the office of Queen's Printer, could he say now clearly whether the incumbent has been deprived of his office or