

Questions

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES,
LONDON, ONT.Question No. 2,004—**Mr. Irvine:**

What was the total expenditure of the Department of National Defence for the purchase of various supplies, services and equipment from firms and individuals in the city of London, Ontario, during each of the years 1963, 1964 and 1965?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): The information supplied by D.D.P. in reply to question No. 1,712, which was made an order for return on 5 October, 1966, (V&P 127, page 824) included purchases made for national defence.

FLAG FLOWN BY CANADIAN NAVY

Question No. 2,007—**Mr. McCleave:**

Are ships of the Royal Canadian Navy required to fly the Canadian flag as both ensign and jack?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): Yes.

• (2:40 p.m.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

REMOVAL OF COAT OF ARMS—MOTION FOR
ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of asking leave, seconded by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr), to move the adjournment of this house under standing order 26 to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the announced removal by administrative decision, with no reference to parliament, of the coat of arms of Canada from the vehicles and equipment of the Post Office Department, such action being invalid and unconstitutional and representing, as it does, a derogation from the sovereignty of this nation and the usurpation of the rights of parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Will the right hon. gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, address the house and the Chair on the question of urgency of debate?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in the last few days there has been an announcement by the means usually followed in matters that might be controversial. The Canadian Press reported it as follows:

"It may take a few years but the familiar royal coat of arms printed on post office trucks and mail bags is going to be replaced by the maple leaf. A Post Office Department official said Thursday it now is policy to use the 11 point maple leaf, the same as the one on the new flag, when

[Mr. Sharp.]

the trucks are being relettered or bags being replaced. In the centre of the maple leaf . . . the letters are inclined, so they can stand for Canada Post or Poste du Canada. The change has not taken place in any post office equipment yet, the official said. It takes a long time for a mail bag to wear out. But the new ones on order will bear the new symbol. The labour department recently began using the maple leaf symbol on its publication, the Labour Gazette. The new social security card used by the department will carry the maple leaf, instead of the coat of arms. No change is required in any legislation to make the change."

That this is a matter of urgency cannot be denied. In point of fact what is to be attempted was dealt with by a former prime minister of Canada, Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, in the House of Commons on February 22, 1955. At that time he went on to deal with the use of the expression "royal" and he suggested—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What page, please?

Mr. Diefenbaker:—what was meant.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the right hon. gentleman from what page in *Hansard* he is about to read?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I beg your pardon; page 1377.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What year?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I quote:

The constitution of this country is a monarchical constitution and I have always asserted, and I know it is—well, I hope it is—the unanimous sentiment of every hon. member in this house that that is the best kind of constitution for the Canadian people that we could hope for.

Then he went on to deal with suggestions regarding constitutional changes and said:

I have declared many times that wherever it is proper the word "royal" should be used. It is unhesitatingly used when the consent of Her Majesty has been obtained. Of course, that is a part of the monarch's prerogative and we never attempt to use the word "royal" in any descriptive title without prior approval by the monarch. All hon. members know what are the many places in which it is used, namely, the Royal Canadian Navy—

This was in 1955.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I continue the quotation:

—the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Artillery or Regiment, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Royal Mail, and many others.

He made it clear that whenever it is proper to use the word, the word "royal" should be used. Now we find another example of the