

*Oral Questions*

ing an agreement with Japan, particularly in view of the fact that we have competent trade and commerce attachés in the embassy in Japan, as we have in many other countries throughout the world?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I will draw that particular representation to the attention of the officers of AECL, but I would want to make this point. I think hon. members should realize the importance of the trading company in the commercial life of Japan. Indeed, it is the strength of the trading corporation on the importing side which gives it strength as an exporter. For that reason I think that if you are going to do business in Japan your chances are a lot better if you appoint an agent from one of the trading corporations.

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**POST OFFICE****PURPOSE OF INCREASE IN RATES—MEASURES TO RESTORE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATION**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Now that Canadians are protesting yet another increase in postal rates, can the Postmaster General advise the House whether these regular increases are designed to decrease the post office deficit or to maintain the subsidy for an essential service?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I would disagree with the hon. member's premise. I have received some protests, but generally the protests have not been what I would have expected.

**An hon. Member:** Just wait a while.

**Mr. Blais:** I also wish to indicate to the hon. member that preliminary indications are that there is no loss of volume as a result of the increases. Indeed, the price of stamps today corresponds to the price in 1955 when we were dealing with an increase in the CPI.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** A supplementary question. Perhaps the protests are still in the mails. In view of the rapidly increasing costs and the continuing deficits and declining service which has been the pattern for the post office in recent years, will the Postmaster General inform the House of the steps he has taken since taking over responsibility to restore Canada's post office to its former high efficiency? In particular, what recommendations has he implemented from the Hays consultant report?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to make a statement on motions at this time in reply to the hon. gentleman's question. I am pleased to note that his leader has finally received through the mail the invitation he launched for his leaders to attend in the hon. member's constituency, to make a welcome address, I am sure.

**Mr. Clark:** He had to deliver it personally, J.-J.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

**CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD****JUSTIFICATION OF PROSECUTIONS—SUGGESTED CHANGE IN LAW**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the action of the Canadian Wheat Board in prosecuting many farmers, agents and grain handling companies, giving in effect criminal records to worthy, reputable and productive citizens, does the minister consider the workings of the Wheat Board Act as presently constituted reasonable and justifiable?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I would want to comment on matters which are before the courts. We had a good discussion on the question of law enforcement issues involved in connection with the Wheat Board. Of course, there have to be enforcement procedures for regulations, but I would not join the hon. member in referring to them as criminal records.

**Mr. Ritchie:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider any other means whereby transgressions of the regulations by reputable citizens, often unwittingly and in the interest of production, can be dealt with without laying criminal charges?

**Mr. Lang:** That certainly might be looked at again, Mr. Speaker, the next time the act is before the House. I hope the hon. member will agree with me that in order to protect producers generally and to assure equity of delivery opportunities we do need rules and that we do have to enforce them.

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**PENITENTIARIES****PROPOSED NEW INSTITUTION FOR MANITOBA—POSSIBILITY OF SITE AT CHURCHILL OR LYNN LAKE**

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Selkirk and is addressed to the Solicitor General. May I ask the minister whether one of the locations in Manitoba that he is considering for the federal penitentiary is Churchill or Lynn Lake because of the high unemployment and the desperate need for economic development there?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, we are more than pleased to consider all possible sites within the province of Manitoba. I will take the hon. member's suggestions and refer them to the appropriate officials in my department, particularly the group concerned with the selection process in Manitoba.