

Inquiries of the Ministry

SOCIAL SECURITY

MONTREAL—DELIVERY OF OLD AGE PENSION CHEQUES

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Considering the uncertain postal situation in Montreal—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You finally got the message.

Another hon. Member: When did you find out about it?

Mr. Allmand: —would the department consider an alternative method of distributing old age security cheques at the end of the month in order to guarantee that these are received by pensioners on the proper date? I ask this question today because there are only ten days left until the end of the month and we will be in recess when that date comes.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. member that I will be glad to bring this suggestion to the attention of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

[Later:]

[Translation]

MONTREAL—DELIVERY OF ALLOWANCE CHEQUES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Being very concerned about people who are expecting welfare cheques at month's end, I should like to ask the minister whether he has thought of asking the 24 members from the Island of Montreal to pass these cheques from door to door during the Easter recess?

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): It has already been done. You are too late.

[English]

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—TRANSFER OF WORKERS' ACQUIRED RIGHTS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the distinguished Acting Prime Minister con-

cerning the very serious dispute in the city just mentioned by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce regarding the right of job security for the workers of Lapalme and the very important matter of the commissioner's inquiry. Can the Acting Prime Minister advise if the Postmaster General was declaring government policy when at the Empire Club last night he is reported as saying that until "the transfer of acquired rights of workers was authorized by legislation such rights could not be transferred?"

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not had the benefit of seeing the report of the speech, but I will draw the hon. member's question to the attention of the Prime Minister on Monday.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the distinguished Acting Prime Minister is whether the Postmaster General would be better advised not to comment on the situation when Mr. Carl Goldenberg is trying his best to deal with it?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to look into that suggestion.

FINANCE

TARIFF BOARD DECISION ON UNDERGROUND VENTILATING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is either for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or the Minister of National Revenue, whichever gentleman would like to respond. In view of the recent decision by the Tariff Board that ventilating equipment used underground does not qualify for exemption from federal sales tax, and in view of the fact that such equipment is used underground, in coal mines, to eliminate the danger of methane gas explosions, thus preventing accidents and loss of life, would the minister consider having this decision by the Tariff Board reviewed? Mr. Speaker, I refer here to the recent decision regarding operations in British Columbia.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have made note of the suggestion.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if he would be kind enough