

Oral Questions
POST OFFICE

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF OFFICES IN MOUNTAIN AND
INKERMAN, ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Could the minister advise whether it is the intention of his department to close post offices in the villages of Mountain and Inkerman in the county of Dundas and open a centralized post office in the town of South Mountain? If that decision has now been made, would he reconsider it?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I do not like closing post offices and I must confess I am unaware of the situation. The hon. member has two choices, however; first, to phone my office and I will get him the information in the next 15 or 20 minutes or second, put the question on the order paper, which is the proper procedure.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before we get into further consideration of this, although I do not like to stifle those kinds of questions which are of immediate concern to all members, I think all hon. members will realize that if we start to open up that kind of subject there is scarcely a member in the House who will not want to add, by way of a supplementary, his concern over matters of a similar nature in his own area.

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● (1210)

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN DAIRY POLICY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Several weeks ago, answering a question I asked him about the milk policy, he stated that the officers of the Canadian Dairy Commission and his department officials were reviewing the policy. Can the minister tell the House whether he is now in a position to bring in the changes he is to propose to improve the condition of industrial milk producers?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that the new dairy policy is to be announced in the new year. We had hoped the new program would be ready sooner than that. We met with the dairy farmers of Canada and with the Dairy Commission this week and discussed costs of production. We have made no decision as yet.

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INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT AID TO INDUSTRY

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce,

[Mr. Drury.]

may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. My question concerns the serious situation in which the Canadian primary textile industry finds itself. Faced with critical decisions of lay-offs of thousands of workers before Christmas throughout Canada, especially in the province of Quebec and in my constituency of Vaudreuil, involving the possible cancellation of a \$40 million construction program, is the minister considering immediate action to bolster this sector of the economy and to avoid turning the coming festive season into a sad occasion for so many families?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will bring the hon. member's representations to the attention of my colleague who, I know, is concerned about the situation in the textile industry.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REASON FOR ALLOWING ALLEGED SPY ALEXANDER GRESKO
INTO CANADA—SUGGESTED DECLARATION HE IS PERSONA
NON GRATA

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. It has to do with the Soviet KGB agent Alexander Gresko. Since the Prime Minister said a few days ago in the House that when the RCMP tells him something he listens, and assuming that that statement is government policy, could the Acting Prime Minister explain, particularly as at the time in question he was secretary of state for external affairs, why the Soviet spy Gresko was allowed entry into this country on numerous occasions, despite RCMP recommendations to the contrary?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the decisions in these matters are not made by the police. The police may advise, but the decisions are made by the Department of External Affairs. I do not think this House would want the police to exercise a veto over government policy or decisions of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): What about limousines?

Mr. Sharp: The RCMP are providing security for the Prime Minister. They were consulted; in this particular case the Department of External Affairs considered all the factors and decided that it was best to permit Mr. Gresko to enter Canada in his current capacity as chief liaison officer of the Soviet Sports Committee of the 1976 Olympics and as his country's attaché to the Olympics. If any further action is to be taken, and I cannot speculate on that, it will be taken by the Department of External Affairs or the RCMP, if necessary.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister? It is too bad the Prime Minister takes RCMP advice about automobiles but ignores other advice concerning national security. Not-