

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Winch:** I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is it then the position of the minister that a decision of his department is in fact a fait accompli, and cannot be considered by the defence committee?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, I would not put it exactly that way, but in respect of the selection of individual items of equipment this is clearly an administrative responsibility of the department which cannot be delegated to a parliamentary committee; because under the constitution the minister has a responsibility to make recommendations to the government, and the government has a responsibility to make recommendations to parliament. When decisions are taken they are referred to the House of Commons in the form of requests for appropriations for the purchase of those particular equipment items. The decision is then subject to discussion in respect of the merits of the items as related to the merits of other available items. This is a very good system which provides ample opportunity for discussion by hon. members who are directly concerned.

#### INQUIRY AS TO DISBANDMENT OF SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Could the minister say whether he has had representations from interested bodies in the province of Saskatchewan requesting the retention of the South Saskatchewan regiment; and have he or his officials come to a conclusion as to the future status of this famous regiment?

**Mr. Speaker:** It does seem to me this is a proper question for the order paper.

#### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

##### USE OF MAILS FOR DISSEMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION LITERATURE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Is the Post Office Department contemplating any action against the national states rights party in connection with the recent and current distribution of racist hate literature in the Toronto area?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for having given me notice of this question.

In recent months, as most members of the house well know, my attention has been drawn to the hate literature issued by certain organizations in the United States which was being distributed through Canadian mails. After examination of some of the material, I determined that it was scurrilous to such a degree that I issued interim prohibitory orders under section 7 of the Post Office Act against two organizations. One was issued in July against the national white Americans party, post office box 2013, Atlanta, Georgia. The second prohibitory order was issued on September 29 against the national states rights party, post office box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

Both the individuals and the organizations concerned were informed that they had a right to request a board of review. There was no request in the case of the national white Americans party for a board of review and the order became final. However, I am sure every hon. member will recall a 19 year old youth, named Stanley, who was involved in the earlier stages of this matter and who was connected at the time with the national white Americans party. I did receive over the week end a communication from this same youth, Stanley, now approximately 20 years of age, asking for a board of review on behalf of the national states rights party. That would indicate that these two groups are obviously the same people.

They have requested a board of review under section 7 of the act. That request will be granted. They will be given an opportunity to put forward their case, and the Post Office Department and others concerned will be given the opportunity of questioning them as to their objectives and what is behind their activities.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Postmaster General. Where are these boards of review held, and are they open to the public?

**Mr. Nicholson:** The boards of review are held here in Ottawa, although we have not had any in respect of hate literature. The people concerned did not act in time in respect of the first prohibitory order. There have been two boards of review held in respect of other matters with public hearings here in Ottawa. I cannot answer the hon. gentleman as to whether they are open to the public, but I will inquire and let him know.