

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Postmaster General.

Would he and the government consider the possibility of submitting workers in the public sector to compulsory arbitration since union members reject and break agreements?

Mr. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I did not understand the question. Is the hon. member referring to Rod Service Limited?

Mr. Latulippe: No, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know whether Post Office Department or the government is considering the possibility of establishing compulsory arbitration in the public sector?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, that question could be directed to the Minister of Labour.

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE**THE QUEEN'S PRINTER—INQUIRY AS TO ABOLITION OF OFFICE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question arises out of the question I asked yesterday in regard to the Queen's Printer. Is the Prime Minister aware that the government, or a department of government, put a sign on the billboard of the printing office in Hull in December, 1968 advising that the position of Queen's Printer was being abolished, following which Mr. Duhamel found himself in general circulation? Since it appears that the Queen's Printer is going to be a speculative possibility, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to appoint a Queen's Printer, so designated?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the reorganization act the position now held by the Queen's Printer will be put under another department, that of supply and services, with specific provision in the bill for the post of Queen's Printer. There will be an official, or an office so designated.

The gentleman who until December held the title and post of Queen's Printer has been assigned to other duties within the government. This means that there is no one at this point in time exercising that function. This is because the bill itself has not been adopted by this house. Under the new reorganization act we have to have authority to appoint this

[Mr. Kierans.]

gentleman under another department, rather than the department where he is now.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, so that there is no mistake, is the Prime Minister's answer this: that as soon as the power is received from parliament there will be a Queen's Printer designated?

Mr. Trudeau: That is the intention of the government. Had the intention been otherwise we would certainly not have brought in a bill with the post of the Queen's Printer specified therein.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO REDUCE POVERTY**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. As inflation has increased considerably in each of the six months since the Prime Minister said in this house that the government's main thrust against the growth of poverty would be control of inflation, is the government planning to initiate new moves to stop poverty from increasing at its present steady rate in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is obviously asking the Prime Minister, or a minister, to make a very general statement. It seems to me that it is the kind of statement that ought to be made on motions.

Mr. Hees: Then may I rephrase the question and simply ask the Prime Minister whether he is planning to initiate any new policies in the future—yes or no—to stop poverty from increasing rapidly in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the opposition wanted to refrain a little bit from asking for new expenditures every time it has the chance, perhaps inflation would not be rising so fast.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister not consider that perhaps this negative type of response is responsible for the fact that the majority of the Canadian people now consider the government is doing an unsatisfactory job—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Hees: —as expressed by the latest Gallup poll?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.