

C274542

March 21
On Thursday ~~last~~ the honourable member for Lake Center, enquired as to how Mrs. Emma Woikin, who is at present under arrest in connection with the current investigation, came to be in the cypher section of the Department of External Affairs. I think it is desirable that I should make the record perfectly clear on this case in order that there may be no misunderstanding.

Mrs. Woikin was employed by the Civil Service Commission after examination in the same way as are other stenographic and clerical personnel who join the government service. I want this to be clearly understood, since the honourable member referred to the fact that Mrs. Woikin is from the constituency of Prince Albert and it is possible that some persons who do not understand the procedure in these matters might think that patronage or favour of some sort was involved. I am sure the honourable member himself knows that it could not be involved.

and since
In 1943 the Commission was encountering some difficulty in supplying the need for stenographers and typists to meet the war needs of various departments, and travelling examiners were sent throughout the country to recruit suitable persons wherever they could be found available. At one of the examinations held by the Civil Service Examiner in the Prairie Provinces, Mrs. Emma Woikin of Blaine Lake was a candidate and was found suitable for work as a Typist Grade 1.

Canada, The usual references were required of Mrs. Woikin and the normal investigation of her background was conducted. The information was that she *was born in* came of a good family and the report on her was favourable. As a result, Mrs. Woikin was appointed a Typist Grade 1 in the Passport Office of the Department of External Affairs on September 10, 1943.

At the time of Mrs. Woikin's appointment, the pressure upon the Passport Office was severe. However, later in the year it grew less and five stenographers and typists were released for use elsewhere in the Department. Mrs. Woikin's work and record were good and she was assigned to the Cypher section as a typist.