

to be safe, secure, and sure. Now we have superkey which opens all doors and any door. There is no stopping superkey. When will our mail be secure? When will we get superlock? Is there a "Keeper of the Keys" on the government side?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, there are some people who ask questions and do not want to hear the answers. That demonstrates their seriousness.

What is happening right now at Canada Post is a serious matter and the Minister responsible for Canada Post and myself are equally concerned about the lack of quality control in the installation of these mail boxes. Therefore, the Minister responsible has spoken to the corporation and has ordered it to get on with the quality control system which will ensure safe delivery.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Valcourt: If I may add, the Minister has asked Canada Post that no new boxes be installed until this mechanism is in place.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO PLACE MAILBOXES IN RURAL AREAS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister. Why does the Minister want to have those same boxes in rural areas? They will be located at some 100,000 houses in rural areas. Why put them up in rural areas when they are inadequate in urban areas?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party . . . First, there are things that should be made clear. Those famous mailboxes were first introduced by the previous Liberal Government, and now they are not good enough. They did it.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why those mailboxes have to be put up is that the previous Liberal Government left thousands of Canadians without any service in some communities. They had to run to the Post Office at five in the afternoon, closing time. But this is now over.

Oral Questions

• (1450)

[English]

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN VOTE ON MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the United Nations this week, the Canadian Government made a major shift in a vote on a very important Middle East resolution dealing with the peace process in that region. The chief of the political section of the Canada Commission at the UN said that the reason for the change in the vote was to "bring Canada into greater balance between Arab and Israeli views". What imbalance was there previously which this official said had to be corrected? Does this presage a major shift in Middle East policy by the Canadian Government and is this the reason why the Government of Canada changed its vote?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe this is one of the questions on which the Liberal Party is not yet divided. Naturally we will wait to see what happens.

Mr. Broadbent: Yes, it is.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Are they divided on this too? Oh, I am sorry. I do not keep track as closely as the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

The reality with regard to the resolution introduced in the United Nations is that the proponents of the resolution have moderated their language to the point where Canada no longer opposes the resolution. Canada continues to encourage direct negotiation between the parties to the dispute and believes that there are circumstances in which an international conference could facilitate such direct talks.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that this would be one of the questions the Minister might treat seriously, which is not his customary practice.

CANADIAN POLICY

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same Minister. Canadian officials have described the vote as a significant shift in Canadian policy. What shift is going on? Are we clearly supporting a continuation of a policy of bilateral talks between the Arab and Israeli nations to seek a peace settlement? If that is the case, will the Minister instruct his officials to correct their statements so that there will be no misconceptions about where Canada stands on this important issue?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my statement on the question was unequivocal and clear. The Hon. Member can count on that