

Inquiries of the Ministry

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

COURTENAY, B.C.—INAUGURATION OF
CARRIER SERVICE

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Question, I have a speaker for the—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You are out of practice; you have been away too long!

Mr. Barnett: I will try again. I have a question for the Postmaster General. I ask the minister when he intends to inaugurate in the city of Courtenay a letter carrier service, since that city has been qualified under the rules for a number of months?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt if the question is in order, but in view of the very special circumstances perhaps the house will allow the minister to answer the question.

Mr. Barnett: May I put it down for ten o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: Possibly the minister would prefer to answer now.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, there is a freeze on introducing new letter carrier service. As soon as this is lifted, I think we will be able to give this service to Courtenay.

Mr. Barnett: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Why this freeze?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the supplementary might be considered at ten o'clock.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT
BANKRUPTCY OF FARMERS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the deplorable and disturbed economic situation now prevailing in agriculture, would the minister inform the house if he expects new tendencies and an adequate policy so as to give practical assistance to the Quebec farmers and prevent a great many of them from going bankrupt?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is now inviting the minister to make a general statement which should normally be made on motions.

[Mr. Schreyer.]

[English]

EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT OF CANADIAN SCHOLARS IN
CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration a question on an urgent matter. This is the time of year when many students of Canadian universities are at the stage of making career decisions. Is the minister satisfied in his capacity as Minister of Manpower and Immigration that a sufficient mechanism exists in the country so that our universities are aware of Canadian scholars available for employment in the universities?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly certain of what is meant by mechanism. We in the department, through our manpower centres and other devices, maintain fairly complete information respecting the university labour market. We do assist the universities in recruiting abroad by our retrieval program and I do not believe, unless the hon. gentleman has some specific obstacle in mind, that there is any difficulty in the flow of this information.

Mr. Stanfield: As a supplementary question, is there any machinery in the country specially for the purpose of making certain that Canadian universities are aware of the qualifications and availability of Canadian scholars, or is the minister simply relying on the normal machinery of his department in this regard?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, as the main network of service in the country, we have over 300 Canada Manpower Centres. We have over 3,000 counsellors who are informed as to the opportunities in Canadian universities, and we do maintain a close relationship with the Canadian Association of Universities on this and other matters.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, may I ask one further supplementary question. Last week the minister indicated that he was conducting some inquiries into difficulties that might be encountered by Canadian scholars seeking teaching employment in this country. Would he include in those inquiries the adequacy of the existing machinery in this country, so that Canadian scholars may have an adequate opportunity to have their services made known, and will his inquiries also include a determination as to whether the proportion of