

would be quite easy for me to table them in the House or make them available to the hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the lack of experience of many people in the use of these machines, is the minister or his department preparing to make available some kind of national training or safety manual that snowmobilers could use?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, at this very moment exhaustive tests are being carried out in the vicinity of Ottawa on some 15 different makes of snowmobiles so that our officials and the experts may have in the field knowledge of any additional regulations that may be required. If the data that is acquired on this basis is of use, I am sure that we would be more than pleased to make it public, yes.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

INQUIRY AS TO CHARGING OF COST OF TICKETS TO LIBERAL BANQUET AS DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSE

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Will the minister inform the House whether companies purchasing \$50 tickets in blocks of ten for the Liberal fund raising banquet to be held in Toronto on March 3 are charging these tickets off as tax deductible expenses?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question might be placed on the Order Paper.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED UNITED STATES PROPOSAL TO IMPORT CANADIAN WATER

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister with reference to the statement made yesterday by Mr. Rogers Morton, President Nixon's choice to become Secretary of the Interior, when appearing before a Senate hearing, that "the United States should study a proposal to import Canadian water." Is the Acting Prime Minister aware of this proposal and, if so, what is it?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Sir. I thank the hon. gentleman for bringing it to my attention.

Mr. Hees: Would the Acting Prime Minister ask the Secretary of State of the United States what this proposal is and report to the House tomorrow?

Mr. Sharp: As far as I know, if Mr. Rogers wanted to make a serious proposal to me he would do so. He has not done so, so I do not really think this represents any serious negotiation between Canada and the United States.

23786—33½

Inquiries of the Ministry

POST OFFICE

ASSURED MAIL DELIVERY PROGRAM—EXTENSION TO OTHER COMMUNITIES—REGIONAL AIR SERVICE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is directed to the minister responsible for the Post Office. It arises from his announcement concerning an assured mail delivery program. Now that the minister has decided to restore the quality of service once enjoyed by Canadians, is this assured delivery to be limited to the cities and communities outlined in his announcement or will it be gradually extended to other important communities such as Charlottetown and Brandon?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, from Toronto the assured mail program will cover the 24 centres which are mentioned in the announcement. The assured mail program is directly related to the communications between different centres, and we have chosen the centres that can have next-day delivery.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure we shall have time during the remaining few minutes to hear supplementaries about all these important centres across Canada, but for the moment we might hear further about Brandon-Souris.

Mr. Dinsdale: In light of the minister's answer perhaps I could direct this question to the Minister of Transport. Is it the minister's intention to deal with our urgent air service problem so that we, too, might be assured of this improved quality of service?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): With respect, Mr. Speaker, I think the question is rather broad, but I assume the hon. gentleman is only concerned about his own community.

Mr. Dinsdale: Western Manitoba.

Mr. Jamieson: I think he is as well aware as I am that level of usage is one of the determining factors. We are doing our best to put the kind of aircraft into that service that will accommodate the people who are offering their patronage. Perhaps the best thing the hon. member could do would be to induce more of his friends and supporters to fly by air.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Fly by air?

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): May I ask the Postmaster General when he intends to reinstate air mail service to western Saskatchewan?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): I will look into that.

[Later:]

ASSURED MAIL DELIVERY PROGRAM—EXPEDITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CARDS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether in line with his inten-