certainly take it seriously and perhaps at a later date I might be able to provide a more definitive answer.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

REDECORATION OF MINISTERIAL OFFICES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It pertains to the recent graduates of the Brian Mulroney school of redecorating—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Boudria: —namely, the Ministers who have spent $1 million to redecorate their departmental offices, not counting their Parliament Hill offices.

How can the Deputy Prime Minister justify to the people of Canada this lavish spending at a time when 3 million Canadians are living below the poverty line?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Hon. Member's question is a serious one rather than one asked in his usual muck-raking style.

I think that it is fair to say that many renovations were required and necessary due to the restructuring of the Cabinet in 1984. If the Hon. Member has any evidence of any inappropriate expenditures or unnecessary spending, I would like him to identify them, give them to me and I will look into them.

[*Translation*]

EXPENDITURES—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I should be delighted to respond to the Deputy Prime Minister's invitation. Perhaps he could explain to the House why his Government, in the answer on the Order Paper, refused to provide details on individual Ministers, and why, especially, it failed to mention in the documents it provided that a Minister had spent $135,000 on redecorating his office on Parliament Hill and his departmental office? Why? Would he please explain that and inform the House why this kind of wasteful spending is tolerated by the Conservative Government?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it was because the question was poorly drafted.

CANADA POST CORPORATION

SHIPMENT OF POSSIBLE INFECTIOUS MATERIAL

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister.

In the Halifax post office today a container fell, a type of container which has a history of breaking open when it falls. This container was labelled "AIDS—Arc Atlantic Reference Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Division of Chemical Immunology". It was coming from the St. John's Hospital.

I understand that to ship infectious material in the mail is against the law. Yet an official from the Department of Health indicated that there may be some problems here about whether the material was suspected to be infected or whether it was just being sent because someone wanted their blood to be tested.

What I would like the Deputy Prime Minister to assure the House is that the spirit of the law in this situation will be applied, not just the letter of the law, and that these shipments will be stopped until this matter can be thoroughly investigated in order that the safety of the workers involved can be protected.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we will certainly look into that situation to ensure that no risk is posed for any people having to handle these materials. The Hon. Member has my assurance and the assurance of the Government in this regard.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, I referred my first question to the Deputy Prime Minister because it related to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wish that he had taken the opportunity to reply.

USE OF SHIPMENT CONTAINER—REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister responsible for the post office. It is with regard to—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): You are pompous beyond your height.

Mr. Keeper: Pardon me?

What I would like to know from the Minister responsible for the Post Office is this. The hospital responsible indicated that this material was being shipped through the mail in a container approved for that purpose. That was the hospital's response. What I would like to do is have the Minister indicate to the post office that he would like to see it suspend the approval of this type of container, which has a history of breaking, for AIDS-related material until he has an opportunity to investigate the situation thoroughly so that people's health and safety can be protected.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without necessarily accepting or