

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

tion arrangements with other countries", the government is suggesting a broadening of the arrangement to the United States in its discussions so that similar agreements may be made with other countries, or has the government attempted to enter into any defence production-sharing arrangements with other countries?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I regret to say I have not read *The Canadian Forum*, but if it is a question of trade policy I suggest that the hon. member might direct it to my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

**Mr. Rowland:** Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of trade policy as much as of the defence production-sharing agreement for which the Minister of National Defence has some responsibility.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, it falls under the responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

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## POST OFFICE

## POSSIBLE STRIKE BY LETTER CARRIERS—AVOIDANCE OF DISRUPTION OF CHRISTMAS MAIL DELIVERY

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. We welcome him back to the House after being lost in the mails while engaged in important negotiations. Can he assure the House that on the basis of these negotiations there will be no serious disruption of the Christmas mail service?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, the discussions that we have held have not been that long. In fact, I do not know yet what decisions the members of the executive will take when they gather on Monday. But if they decide to vote for a strike, they will have to bear the consequences.

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, based on the letter edged in black that we received from the minister this morning the main issue in contention seems to be the hiring of casuals to avoid paying overtime to the regular employees. Is the minister pursuing this point of contention so that a successful solution will be found for all concerned?

[Translation]

**Mr. Côté:** Mr. Speaker, we are not afraid to discuss with them the measures that the department might consider with regard to a new method of work allocation in the case of unmanned routes. We are ready to discuss this matter and, if possible, to affect members of the bargaining unit to mail delivery in case of continuing need, but the department cannot undertake not to hire casual workers, because it could not then hire the 60,000 normally needed during the Christmas season.

[Mr. Rowland.]

[English]

## POSSIBLE STRIKE BY LETTER CARRIERS—ACTION TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS' AND VETERANS' CHEQUES

**Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Postmaster General a supplementary question. In case there is a walkout toward the end of the month, would the minister do something to assure that old age pension cheques and veterans' cheques are delivered to those needy people?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, that is a hypothetical question.

[English]

## LETTER CARRIERS—POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF RIGHT TO STRIKE

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. I understand that in a speech last night the Minister of Labour indicated that it may be necessary to remove the right to strike in order to protect the public interest and maintain public services. Was he thinking of the letter carriers in this instance?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some hesitation about allowing the question in those terms. The hon. member knows it is not quite regular to ask questions of ministers in relation to speeches made outside the House. Perhaps we can assume that the question has been asked directly and the minister might be allowed to reply.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, what I did say was that in the case of disputes where it has become evident that the dispute must be brought to an end in the best interests of the public, I would have no hesitation introducing legislation removing the right to strike from the union in question and providing ways and means of settling that dispute. In the case of the postal workers I would suggest to them that their collective agreement and the Public Service Act provide a legal method for settling honest differences of opinion on any particular clause in the agreement, and any premature walkout or strike on Monday next would make it very difficult for those people who understand the labour movement to agree with their action. In other words, through irresponsible actions they make it very difficult for their friends to help them. I hope they understand precisely what I am talking about, Mr. Speaker.

• (11:30 a.m.)

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## FUTURE OF MOHAWK INSTITUTE

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. When the minister visits the Mohawk Institute in Brantford on November 27 will he be prepared to present at