

S. O. 31

Does Canada Post have different policies for the regions of our country? If so, why? Is that fair, Mr. Speaker?

Last year Canada Post amassed a profit of over \$149 million. Does Canada Post really need to shut down the fourth-oldest post office in our country to improve its balance sheet? Don't the residents of Mossley deserve to keep their own Canadian national symbol, their piece of Canadiana, which they want to share with future generations of Canadians?

Will the minister change his decision?

* * *

MIDDLE EAST

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, as all people of good will seek justice and peace in the Middle East, we are shocked to learn that once again violence and conflict have erupted in the Middle East. This time the conflagration occurs between the old arch rivals, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Questionable alliances have occurred between Syria and Lebanon during the last months, but now, seemingly unprovoked, Israel this week has launched air raid attacks on southern Lebanon. For more than a year, the UN has verified that no raids have emanated from the internationally recognized Lebanese border. Yet, in the Israeli attacks, Lebanese civilians and children have been left dead. In fact, it appears that the magnitude of these attacks surpass those of Israel's notorious 1982 attack.

• (1410)

In view of the very tense and fragile peace that is being sought in the whole of the Middle East, I ask our government to condemn these raids and to call upon the United Nations to intervene to prevent even greater tragedy from occurring.

* * *

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, I believe Environment Week is the right time to send a signal to Canadian industry that we support greater production and use of ethanol from renewable resources in gasoline blends.

This government can help create new domestic markets for this product by encouraging the use of Gasohol in federal government vehicles wherever it is available in Canada.

In so doing, we would also show our support for the recommendations of the recent report of the Standing Committee on the Environment.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights has published a document which reveals that children from Haiti are brought illegally and deceptively into the Dominican Republic to work on sugar cane plantations.

These children are promised high wages. Once they arrive they are forced to work as slaves, receiving low wages, working under inhumane conditions, and most shocking of all, they are prevented from returning to their homes in Haiti.

The International Labour Organization has been denouncing this blatant abuse of human rights since 1983.

This is nothing less than the trafficking of children. Worse still, according to the report, the Dominican Republic is involved in this through a state-owned sugar producer. This same government also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in January, 1990.

The Dominican Republic should respect its own law and convention. I ask the Government of Canada, in any deliberations with the Dominican Republic, to bring all influence to bear in having this monstrous system of child trafficking dismantled.

As a fellow signatory of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we can do nothing less.

* * *

[*Translation*]

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Mr. Gaby Larrivée (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, this is the twentieth anniversary of National Environment Week, and this year the theme is: "A Time for Action".

This week, many Canadians will take part in more than 800 activities across this country.