

elected Cabinet Minister under the previous administration. By contrast, we now have 12.

The National Energy Policy was the engine of ruin by which the Liberals punished the people of western Canada. The ripple effects of the NEP are still being felt in the recent collapse of several financial institutions.

The PC Party at Prince Albert promised to listen and to act. The result is the Western Accord which lays the foundation for restored prosperity in western Canada. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), in holding the First Ministers' conference in Regina, signalled his recognition of the West. Contrast this to the penultimate Prime Minister who asked the farmers: "Why should I sell your wheat?"

Nothing changes. Only last week, in response to a serious question concerning the grasshopper threat on the Prairies, a Liberal responded: "Spray them with PCBs." Same old Liberals, same old hypocrisy, same old arrogance. We in the PC Party know that a truly prosperous Canada can emerge only from strong, revitalized regions. We in western Canada rejoice at being part of Canada once again.

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[Translation]

#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

##### POSTAL RATE INCREASE

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, in a recent Canada Post Corporation release, it was announced that the postal rate for letters would go up by two cents as of next June 24.

This announcement is an insult to my constituents who have now been waiting for over a year to have their mail delivered at home.

On two occasions, Mr. Speaker, I presented petitions signed by hundreds of residents of my riding to urge the Government to make strong representations to the Canada Post Corporation. This community development is located in the centre of the City of Montreal, and it is altogether unacceptable that this service should not yet be provided for my constituents who pay taxes and should have it.

The cost of postal stamps has jumped 88 per cent since 1981, from 17 to 32 cents. Canada is already one of the major western countries where postal rates are among the highest. Should the Government approve this increase, our postal rates will have doubled over the past four years.

On behalf of my constituents who are taxed for services they do not even get, Mr. Speaker, I object to this rate increase.

S.O. 21

#### PEACE

##### PERMANENCY OF DEMONSTRATION ON PARLIAMENT HILL

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, at 7:20 a.m., the peace camp tent and information table on Parliament Hill were taken down and removed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and two peace camp members were arrested. This action took place after two years of demonstrations in front of the Parliament Buildings by peace camp volunteers, a group of Canadians for peace and against nuclear destruction. They expressed the concern of millions of Canadians who are for peace and against nuclear war.

Apparently the Government decided to bring charges of trespassing against the peace camp people, whose only crime was their passionate concern for peace. The Conservative Government had a choice of two responses to the presence of these demonstrators, Mr. Speaker: act on their request or remove them from their demonstration site by force. Unfortunately, the new Government has continued the policy of the previous Liberal Government by allowing cruise missile testing, and instead of objecting to the American Star Wars project with its tremendous potential for destabilizing the situation between the superpowers, it is preparing for Canada's participation in this disastrous project.

Mr. Speaker, my party and myself support the presence of the peace camp on Parliament Hill because it is a visible sign of the support of all Canadians for peace.

We deplore the Government's action. We ask the Government to stop harassing these demonstrators. It is not a matter of regulations, Mr. Speaker, nor a matter—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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[English]

#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

##### CRITICISM OF SERVICE

**Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concerns of many of my constituents about the operation of the post office. In spite of the fact that the president of the corporation speaks in glowing terms about the efficiency of the operation, the reality of the situation is much different. Postal service has not improved since the formation of Canada Post, and the recent announcement of a proposed hike in postal rates has added more fuel to the fire.

● (1410)

Rural residents, faced with restricted hours of operation and severe increases in rental rates for post office boxes, have expressed concern, and rightly so. On the other hand some rural residents receive daily mail deliveries at no additional cost. Likewise, many city residents receive daily mail delivery