

*Oral Questions***CANADA POST CORPORATION**

DOOR-TO-DOOR MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Canada Post Corporation.

Section 15 of the Charter of Rights states:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law—

Why does the Minister allow Canada Post Corporation to violate Section 15 of the Charter of Rights by not delivering mail door-to-door to new residential districts?

Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I remind the Hon. Member that we have been delivering mail and increasing the service 16 per cent over the last three years, with increases in mail handling, and we have introduced new methods of doing it more economically. I would assure the Hon. Member that it is the intention of this Government to end up in a position where Canada Post breaks even and we stop, from the bottomless pit, pouring money into the Crown Corporation.

[Translation]

MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, why does one group of citizens get home mail delivery while another group in the same neighbourhood does not? If that isn't discrimination, what is? They are just across the street!

[English]

Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, it has been the policy of Canada Post, for some years now, to continue door-to-door delivery of mail within urban areas. It has also been the policy of Canada Post, as approved by this Government, to increase the service to customers in rural areas by giving more efficient and more effective means of delivering the mail in close proximity to their residences.

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BANKS AND BANKING

ELECTRONIC DEPOSITING OF PENSIONS AND WAGES

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. During the last election campaign our Party indicated that millions of dollars could be saved by introducing the electronic deposit of pension and salary cheques directly into banks rather than sending them out through the Post Office. Will the Minister advise the House what has happened to that commitment and

when the Government intends to begin the direct electronic depositing of cheques?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, we have undertaken, on an experimental basis, the sending of cheques to a number of our public servants. That has worked very well; and we will be commencing, very soon, a program to send cheques to all of the public servants of the Government of Canada.

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RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES COMMISSION

TABLING OF REPORT ON COMPETITION IN THE CANADIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Government received a report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission with regard to the oil companies in May. It was not tabled by the Minister until last Friday, the last day when it was required. The report made a number of recommendations which involved the combines legislation which passed a week earlier. Why did the House not receive the report in May when it could have been used?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not, as the Hon. Member will be aware, fully cognizant of all of the details with respect to the lead-up of time. The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, of course, would operate on its own timetable with respect to the preparation and presentation of that particular report; so I do not think it is absolutely accurate to equate that with the actions of the Minister.

RECOMMENDATION DEALING WITH PETRO-CANADA

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Minister had it for more than a month before it was released. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government supports the recommendation of that report which calls on Petro-Canada not to be operated like another oil company but, rather, as a company which will oppose oil industry anti-competitiveness and such practices as buying up independent gas stations, squeezing them through unfair pricing, and so on.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will not respond directly to that question except to say I will take the question as notice and have the appropriate Minister respond to the Hon. Member, whenever that Minister returns.