

S.O. 21

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT—ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES—POSSIBLE DANGERS

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Rosemont): Madam Speaker, this week, the State of Israel celebrated its thirty-fifth birthday. The international community, including multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and at the bilateral level, has regularly criticized the establishment of settlements in occupied territories. On the very day of Israel's thirty-fifth birthday, a new settlement in Upper Nablus was announced by the Israeli Government. Hon. Members will recall that Nablus is located more than 60 kilometers north of Jerusalem, in a territory where Palestinians and Arabs are in the majority. I would like to point out to the House that this new settlement proves that it is extremely urgent that the parties concerned, namely Israel and the Palestinians, negotiate a settlement as soon as possible, so that the Palestinians can find a place to live and have a citizenship that is recognized, and Israel can live within recognized and safe borders. Madam Speaker, these settlements are a very disturbing element of policy in the Middle East, and I hope that the House and the Government will indicate to the Government of Israel the need to negotiate.

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[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

COST OF RENOVATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, earlier this week the press reported an interview with the president of Canada Post Corporation, Mr. Michael Warren, in which he commented that postal rates could be expected to go up again on some unspecified date. This should come, I suppose, as no surprise to any of us, but I find it particularly interesting because it has also come to my attention this week that this same Canada Post Corporation is spending upwards of a million dollars to renovate their executive offices in the Sir Alexander Campbell Building here in Ottawa. Tenders, I am informed, will be let by invitation only.

Renovations were made last August to some of the offices in the annex. In November, \$300,000 was spent to renovate the eighth and ninth floors, and the expenditure of \$424,000 to further re-do the executive area has just been approved. None of these contracts was made by public tender.

I commented yesterday that the budget fiasco was the product of an exhausted Government weary unto death. Clearly this condition is not limited to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and his cronies. Has the Cabinet surrendered all control over Government operations, or is it just too tired to care any more?

● (1110)

THE ADMINISTRATION

CONDEMNATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, the Government's economic policies clearly indicate that it is, colloquially speaking, out of its tree, that it is in fact out of touch with reality, and that it psychologically insane. I say this because the Government is refusing to deal with reality. Rather than planning for jobs, it has turned over its financial elbow room to the private sector. Rather than planning for full employment, it changes the definition of full employment. Rather than changing its policies, it changes its words.

Madam Speaker, the Government is attempting to make acceptable to Canadians what is clearly unacceptable. It is preaching as being realistic an unemployment rate of 12.4 per cent today, 10 per cent for the long-term, and an ultimate goal of 7 or 8 per cent.

The Government is playing with our dreams, our hopes and our values, rather than acting on them. The Government is denying its responsibility. It is treating the economy as if it were the weather. It is blaming what is happening today on economic analysis rather than taking appropriate action.

Not only that, the Government has a split personality. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) refuses to speak in specifics with regard to jobs. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) talks about some 300,000 jobs coming out of the budget. The Government must get its act together. It is time to call in a clinical psychologist to return some sanity to this place.

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HEALTH

CONTROVERSY OVER HEROIN USE IN TREATMENT OF TERMINALLY ILL

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, there has been considerable discussion recently on the possibility of using heroin once again as a pain suppressant in the treatment of terminally-ill patients. It must be remembered that while heroin remains a prescribable drug and one which medical doctors may still administer, its importation and manufacture in Canada have been forbidden since 1955. This prohibition action was taken by the Canadian authorities at that time in compliance with the International Narcotic Control Convention established by the World Health Organization.

The use of this drug for palliative purposes is very controversial. Heroin is favoured because of ease of administering by hypodermic needle. However, very many medical practitioners are opposed to giving terminally-ill patients medication by injection, and find it more acceptable to administer medication by mouth.