

S.O. 21

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Bourassa should address the Chair. Undoubtedly the Hon. Member for Bourassa will want to continue his remarks when the debate resumes and, upon his return, I would strongly urge him to address the House through the Chair.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until 2 p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): On December 5, 1986, Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), it was stated, and I quote from page 1820 of *Hansard*:

First and foremost must be the interest and welfare of Canadian citizens, particularly, for example, in rural areas. There shall be no second-class citizens in this country as long as this Government remains in office, postal services or otherwise.

Those Canadians who were following the House of Commons proceedings on that day were reassured by the commitment to maintain similar postal services for all Canadians.

Despite their promise not to create second-class citizens in this country, Canada Post management continue to discriminate against Canadians in both rural and urban areas. This is why Canadians from coast to coast are rallying to protest against the decision which was made by the Government and Canada Post and which undermines our whole postal system.

I urge the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to bring pressure to bear on his colleague responsible for Canada Post to ensure that no shutdown of rural post offices will be considered, that the installation of superboxes will end once and for all, and that home delivery will be restored for all Canadian taxpayers.

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[English]

SPORTS

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE—OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS—
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, whoever said that Investment Canada was not working was dead wrong. Whoever said that the National Capital Region

did not have any normal, down-to-earth grass root people, also was dead wrong.

Last Friday, January 27, the Ottawa Rough Riders finally came home. The governors of the CFL unanimously agreed that the team ownership be passed from foreign hands in Toronto to community-based ones here in Ottawa. That great western spirit of local ownership and initiative has finally arrived in eastern Canada, and none too soon. The one day of the year when we all continued to put aside our regional differences on Grey Cup day will now continue more vigorously with this transfer of ownership.

My congratulations to Hillary, Tucker, Hamilton, Gasvie, Holtby, Kielty, Logue, Nicholls, Robson, and all the rest. You have kicked your first extra point of the 1987 season—Good luck to all!

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HOUSING

CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY FOR RENT SUPPLEMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of the co-op housing movement are being threatened by the Conservative Government. In addition to going back on its promise to provide 5,000 co-op housing units per year, the Government has tampered with the formula for setting rent supplement assistance. Because of the narrowly defined criteria set by CMHC many people who previously would have been eligible will be denied assistance and thus denied the opportunity to live in co-op housing. The restrictions now being imposed by the Government threaten this type of housing.

In addition to the eligibility changes, the over-all amounts for rent supplements have been lowered. The Government had budgeted rent supplement assistance for 1,500 co-op units for 1986, but now, because of over-all cut-backs to the program, it is only providing 950.

I call upon the Government to reassess its rent supplement program, and to provide the already budgeted rent supplement to 1,500 co-op housing units. If the Government were interested in creating jobs, jobs, jobs, this is one of the most productive things that it could do to create employment, and decent, affordable, adequate housing.

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CANADIAN COAST GUARD

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Canadian Coast Guard. For the past quarter century it has provided exemplary services in all