

Oral Questions

Moreover, heart disease represents a major burden for all societies, not only in terms of human suffering but also as a result of high health care costs and the loss of productivity.

Let us make World Health Day 1992 a success by working individually and collectively to prevent and control cardio-vascular disease in the days and years ahead.

* * *

CANADA POST

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, why can the House of Commons not receive answers to straightforward questions from Canada Post?

In response to a series of questions I asked about the number of closures Canada Post planned for this year, Canada Post president Don Landers said:

We have a corporate plan where we identify the possibility of conversions in relation to natural opportunities and that is the way in which we work out programs through the course of the year.

Then he said:

Somebody can die and so forth, but we have some idea of what the conversion rate would be and we do not approach it as closures but rather we approach it as a change in the type of service.

And, "When you say closing again, it is a conversion".

Mr. Speaker, obviously the only way to receive information and answers from Canada Post is to insist that senior management in Canada Post be sworn in as witnesses in front of House of Commons committees. Otherwise we do not get the truth.

* * *

UNITY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, when you hear Shawville Pontiacs, North York Canadians, Portage Terriers, Dartmouth Whales, Kelowna Elks, these are just five of 60 bantam hockey teams from across Canada, some 1,200 young people, playing this week in the Unity Hockey Tournament in Toronto.

Our national sport does unite Canada, and these young athletes are playing their hearts out for the love of this country. Along with MPs of this House I want to thank the Minister of National Defence, the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs, and the Secretary of State for their great assistance.

I want to thank the private sector, sponsors such as API Landmark, Bell Canada, Burger King, Canadian Airlines, CCM Mascula, Danford Local Restaurants, Druxie, Holiday Inn, Maple Leaf Gardens, McDonald's, MTHL Pizza Hut, PMCL, Purolator Courier, Senate Printing, George Smith Canada Cup Trophies, SkyDome Tours, Strathcona Hotels, TSN and Canada Post.

There is a missing element. Our parliamentary channel would be a welcome addition during its free time. I ask the NDP to change its position and support that televised use today. All Canadians would like to enjoy the joy of hockey.

* * *

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, the people of Ontario are getting tired of the politics of confrontation. Yesterday they got another dose as Premier Bob Rae brought down a throne speech which devoted more time to bashing the federal government than trying to be constructive. The premier knows that one of the major economic problems we have in this country is the inefficiency caused when governments refuse to co-operate or adopt conflicting policies.

Bob Rae's horrific deficit will turn into a legacy of tax increases for Ontarians. His refusal to harmonize the provincial sales tax with the GST means more civil servants, higher costs, and continued headaches for business people who have to maintain two separate sets of books.

The people of Ontario want common sense in government. I call on Bob Rae to throw off the cape of ideology and co-operate with Ottawa for a speedy economic recovery.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD[*Translation*]**TRADE**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In Montreal, at this very moment, free trade talks are being held by Canada, the United States and Mexico on the 21st floor of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. It seems reporters have better luck asking the Americans or even the Mexicans about what is going on. In fact, the