

*Oral Questions*

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would tell us what confidence Canadians can have in the so-called decision that culture would not be on the bargaining table? Might Canadians not reasonably think that the Government has reneged on yet another policy?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

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## CANADA POST CORPORATION

## RURAL MAIL DELIVERY ROUTES

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Minister responsible for the post office. As the Parliamentary Secretary knows, hundreds of rural mail delivery routes are currently being assessed for the possibility of closure, including four in my riding. What criteria is Canada Post employing in deciding which routes should be cut and what guarantees, if any, do rural Canadians have that they are not being discriminated against simply because rural routes are easier to close than urban routes?

**Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to assure the Hon. Member for Brandon—Souris that Canada Post Corporation is working under a mandate that was supported by two Governments. That mandate is to reach self-sufficiency. In that process it is necessary from time to time to review the operations and we leave it to Canada Post to review those operations and use the necessary means it has at its disposal as a Crown corporation, something to which we all agreed in 1981, to bring about the objective of self-sufficiency. In conclusion, I can advise the House that the deficit of Canada Post as reported by the President, Don Lander, is down to \$200 million.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ETHIOPIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Mr. Speaker:** May I draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in our gallery today of His Excellency, Mr. Goshu Wolde, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Ethiopia.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF RIGHT HON. ROLAND MICHENER

**Mr. Speaker:** I also draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence of the Right Hon. Roland Michener.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

## RAILWAYS

## CN SHOPS IN MONCTON—INQUIRY CONCERNING COMPLETION OF STUDY

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport.

[English]

The Minister has answered many of my questions on the CN shops in Moncton by referring to the internal study being conducted by CN. Can the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House as to the progress of the study? How long will it be before the study is completed? Does the Minister have any advance knowledge of the contents of that study?

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport is hopeful that he will be seized of that particular study before the end of this month.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAY-OFFS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, are the lay-offs announced last Friday by CN affecting 105 workers in the area the result of this internal study? Are more layoffs coming our way? We cannot take much more.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is aware, as indeed are most Hon. Members, that this is the position of Canadian National Railways. It was given a mandate and it has now responded. A review of this response is presently under way and the Minister should have the results before the end of the month. I think I can assure the Hon. Member that this will be the end of it for the time being.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE

## SHIPS' CREWS—REGIONAL PAY SCALES

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board regarding the current dispute with federal Government ships' crews. Does the Minister agree with the principle of parity for