

in my constituency of Sarnia—Lambton in support of our government's continued pursuit of the strengthening and clarification of article XI of GATT.

• (1410)

Our federal government remains firmly committed to maintaining our supply management system and our marketing boards under article XI, as the supply management leaders have told us to do, and that is what we will continue to do.

For years, as a government we have accommodated the position of the supply management leadership. The decision to continue to negotiate for clarification of article XI is in their hands. We have supported their position right up to this date and we will continue to do so.

Our Prime Minister has taken every opportunity to make our position clear to the leaders of GATT member nations, including leaders of the European Community and U.S. President George Bush.

The representatives of our supply management industry and our government have made it very clear that the Government of Canada's negotiators are to stand firm with respect to having article XI strengthened and clarified. Our negotiating team is sticking to that position.

Our federal government has a strategy of consulting our supply management leaders with respect to the development of the GATT negotiations—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

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#### CANADA POST

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, Canada Post has struck again. It has not been satisfied in closing hundreds of small rural post offices across this country, nor has it learned from its fight last year with the community of Mabou, Nova Scotia.

No siree. Now Canada Post has set its sights upon Petit de Grat, a small, thriving community in Cape Breton. The people there learned two weeks ago that Canada Post has decided that their post office must close. No consultation with community members, no reasons or

discussions; only the most cursory of public meetings to review options after the fact.

[Translation]

The only option the community of Petit-De-Grat wants is to keep its post office open. I also want the post office to stay open, because as a meeting place it provides an excellent service to many customers, especially senior citizens and the handicapped. When will Canada Post and this government realize they are making a big mistake? When will they stop reducing services while raising rates? When will they stop abolishing essential services and start treating Canada's rural population the way it should be treated?

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[Translation]

#### ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, according to an editorial today in *La Presse*, the kind of solution the opposition parties have in mind to deal with the present state of the economy smacks of outdated State interventionism.

Their solutions are half a century old, and they ought to know they will not work today. In the thirties, some kind of balance could be maintained by creating a deficit to fight the recession and subsequently working up a surplus to pay back the debt. Nowadays we do not start with a clean slate. The Liberal federal deficit is considerable, and we can no longer count on this pendulum action.

That is what appears to be happening in Ontario, where enormous amounts of additional funds have already proved insufficient. The same phenomenon occurred in 1982, when the Liberal government doubled its deficit from \$14 billion to \$28 billion and was never able to bring it back to its original level.

For the time being, the Leader of the Opposition with his economic recovery strategy, projects the image of a predecessor, not a successor to the Conservatives.

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[English]

#### HEALTH CARE

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, once again the issue of user fees has taken centre stage.