

S.O. 21

two in Calgary, and province-wide provides employment for 43 blind people.

Cater Plan has been asked to provide 28,000 meals this summer under the current House of Commons program, and I believe all Canadians will be proud to know that CNIB Cater Plan services have been contracted to provide meals at a very reasonable cost to these visiting groups.

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THE ECONOMY

DROP IN INTEREST RATE LEVELS

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada rate fell this afternoon to 9.59 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tupper: The prime rate is currently the lowest it has been since September, 1978. Mortgage rates are falling. The Bank of Montreal cut its six-month mortgage rate last week to 9.75 per cent, the lowest rate for any mortgage offered since 1973. The one and two-year rates at the same institution fell to 10 per cent and 10.75 per cent respectively. London Life Insurance Company dropped its five-year mortgage rate below 12 per cent for the first time since 1979.

In addition, automobile manufacturing, rail loadings, housing starts, real estate transactions, the output of several industries, and employment are all up.

Why? It relates to the fact that Canadians and Canadian businessmen are gaining confidence in themselves and in Canada. Much of that confidence relates to the initiatives of the present Government. The mood across the nation is buoyant, Mr. Speaker, as we await the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

POSTAL SERVICE DELAYS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, while Canada Post applies for an inflationary rate increase, service in many areas continues to deteriorate. Constituents ask questions for which no reasonable answers can be given.

Why does it routinely take nine days for a letter to go from Galiano Island to Vancouver, less than 20 miles away?

Why is mail from the U.S. held at the border until a certain quantity is reached, so that a constituent receives four pieces of mail in one day which had been written over a one month interval?

Why is Canada Post trying to take from community newspapers their traditional business of delivering inserts and flyers? Why is it harassing these papers with excessive charges for minor mistakes in date-line? Why does it insist that all

inserts must be placed in the centre of an open newspaper, when small operations have to do this by hand?

Why does Michael Warren not answer letters of complaint?

The Government must instruct Canada Post that there will be no increase in postal rates until service has been brought to a satisfactory level.

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THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, do you know what? Our country is in one terrible, deplorable, disgraceful, scandalous, bad, disastrous, painful, shameful, dishonourable, discreditable, disreputable, unmentionable, humiliating and ignominious shape. In other words, we have been broke since 1975, but the Liberals, aided by the NDP, pretended, bewildered, mystified, misinformed, equivocated, evaded, ignored, rationalized, subterfuged, clapped, quibbled, blinded and shaded the facts to fool the people, and lived high on the hog on more than \$108 billion of borrowed money. But the people were not fooled, and on September 4 last they elected a Progressive Conservative Government to save the country from going into bankruptcy. Now, to increase productivity, create jobs, and increase social benefits, it must get rid of the monstrous debt that is bleeding the country dry.

The PCs are working, struggling, fighting, digging, analysing, exerting, reducing, strengthening, shortening, discounting, demonstrating, converting, co-operating, tightening, collaborating, and consulting, and doing it all fairly and above the table to restore Canada to its rightful place among nations. Our citizens may bleed a little, but Canada will rise again as a united, sovereign nation, reflecting the thinking of all of its people. Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1410)

DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

USE OF HERBICIDES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, on a more serious note I am sure that many Canadians will be saddened today upon hearing that the Ontario Government has had to decide to make free bottled water available to those whose drinking water is contaminated by the herbicide alachlor, rather than ban its use. Who would have thought that the day would come in Canada when we would be reduced to handing out bottled water? Is our fascination with herbicides and pesticides so great that we would rather give up our water than seek ecologically sound alternatives to the use of these dangerous substances?