

*S. O. 31*

ing authoritative advice to their fellow Canadians who may suffer from allergies.

Allergies to natural and man-made substances cause reactions that vary from person to person. Some find allergies to be minor irritations, others are handicapped, and in some instances allergic reactions are tragically fatal.

We need to increase our awareness and understanding of allergies and their causes. As is so often the case, education is the key. By knowing the ingredients in everyday products we use and by being aware of the pollutants in our environment we can learn to live safely with our allergies.

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, the performance of the President of the Treasury Board in the last 36 hours would be laughable if he were not playing tragically with the lives of half a million Canadians.

In a spectacular reversal of the February 26 budget announcement, the minister told Public Service union leaders yesterday that there will be no wage increase this year, not even for those who are earning \$16,000 a year. No wonder the deficit and debt are so high if the government's idea of managing is to change its mind on a whim and leave others to deal with the fall-out.

This is the same minister who just a month ago said that with 12,000 reductions every year in the Public Service, there is no reason there could not be a 3 per cent increase.

Where were they for the last month? Did they not know what their budget situation is? Employees' livelihood and service to Canadians are in the crossfire while the minister blithely sits back and turns up the heat on the battlefield. Perhaps he should join his leader in Japan who seems to have an equally perverse sense of what he should do and say to benefit the country.

[*Translation*]

#### ABITIBI'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, Opposition members have some catching up to do on the news from Quebec.

On April 21, 1991, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced that the minister and member for Roberval, the hon. Benoît Bouchard, would be Minister of National Health and Welfare and also the minister responsible for regional economic development in Quebec.

Since 1984, together with Benoît Bouchard, I have fought for the economy of the region, in co-operation with local communities. Since 1984, federal Liberal members, members of the New Democratic Party and, today, Bloc Québécois members have avoided any involvement in decisions on issues such as: CANMET; tax benefits for isolated areas; airports servicing Val-d'Or, Amos and *Lebel-sur-Quévillon*; the shelter in Barraute; the Article 25 and *Défi étudiant* projects; the establishment of community development projects in Senneterre, Barraute, Lebel-sur-Quévillon, Amos, Matagami, Joutel, Val-d'Or, Malartic and Cadillac, and many other important issues in the riding.

Mr. Speaker, the minister and member for Roberval, Benoît Bouchard, has worked hard to ensure that Abitibi gets its share of federal money, and he will continue to do so in Quebec.

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[*English*]

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future says that while a great many Canadians see bilingualism as a worthy personal goal, they reject the present official languages policy and favour a more flexible and practical approach such as delegating language jurisdiction to the provinces or having French as the official language in Quebec and English as the official language everywhere else.

Professor Jean Laponce of the University of British Columbia suggests that we can address these concerns by