

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

dictate that we give all sectors an opportunity to harvest this surplus resource.

* * *

CANADA POST CORPORATION

POSTAL FRANCHISE OUTLETS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. The Government has been saying that it is improving service and increasing the number of outlets with its franchising program at the Post Office. The confidential planning document we have indicates that what is happening in Sydney and Yorkton is quite the opposite. It indicates Canada Post is going to relocate a downsized corporate outlet in a secondary market area and establish a franchise in the business core, which is the area in which it gains the most money.

Will the Government now admit that what it is doing is gutting the Post Office, destroying the post offices which exist, in order to establish franchises, that it is in no way increasing service but is simply replacing one post office with another so it has contracts to hand out to its friends?

[Translation]

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member realizes that the charge he is making is entirely frivolous and that he has not checked his facts. Once again, I can assure Hon. Members that the Canada Post Corporation, contrary to what is claimed by the New Democratic Party, ensures that service and access to service is enhanced. Today, most people work, and customer demand has changed, and Canada Post has adjusted to this change. I can assure the Hon. Member that Canada Post is taking good care of customer service.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: A short supplemental—very short.

PLANNING DOCUMENTS—REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, these post offices that are being closed are post offices which have revenues seven and ten times the salary costs of maintaining them. It should be possible to improve service at these post offices without closing them down in order to open a post office in a drugstore. Will the Minister make public the planning documents of Canada Post so that Canadians can make a decision about what the Government is doing about service at the Post Office?

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, parliamentarians made a decision in 1981 when they decided unanimously in the House to transfer the service to a Crown Corporation.

Again, they are not closing the Post Office, they are expanding the service.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question. The Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney).

* * *

HEALTH

AIDS—PROTECTION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Given the fact that thousands of federal government employees working in laboratories and health care facilities and elsewhere in the Government have understandable concerns about AIDS in the workplace, would the Minister advise the House if his Department is doing anything to inform employees of the federal Government how to protect themselves from AIDS while at work?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, with respect to federal employees and AIDS in the workplace, I remind the Hon. Member and the House that quite some time ago kits were provided, for example, for our employees who work abroad, especially plasma kits, for postings in countries where health facilities might not be up to the standards we expect in Canada.

Second, I should tell the Hon. Member and all Members of the House that a video has been completed with respect to protection in the workplace. It is directed to federal employees. I believe it is going to be aired tomorrow in both official languages. I can get the information to the House. I believe it is helpful and instructive to our federal employees so they can protect themselves and yet render the services the Hon. Member mentioned.

* * *

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACTREQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
TO TRAVEL—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will know that I heard an important argument two days ago with respect to the use of motions of instruction relating to Bills. I undertook to Hon. Members to do everything I could to return as quickly as possible with a ruling. The ruling is now complete.

The Chair has considered the procedural arguments raised on the admissibility of the motion of instruction moved by the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). Since the