

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

CANADA POST

[English]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, Canada's resource communities are being devastated by this government's economic policies. Communities from Valemount to Atikokan to Canso are suffering.

Thousands of forestry and fishery jobs are disappearing. This government has allowed our resource stocks to be depleted and wiped out. The finance minister asks what can he do. This government signed away our forest policy decisions through the softwood lumber tariff. Because of this, our lumber exports to the U.S. are down. The U.S. government has even issued 64 orders to the Canadian government telling us how to run our forest policy.

The Government of Canada should use section 9 of the agreement and give immediate notice of termination of this tariff. This would help ensure Canadian forestry jobs are protected. It is time the Minister of Finance understood the effect of his policies on real Canadians.

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FOOD AND DRUGS

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, it appears that this government will miss the January 1, 1991 deadline for the issuance of regulations mandating new warning labels on cigarette packages.

It is now known that smoking is addictive. It is a major cause of stroke and fatal lung disease and harms non-smokers as well. The new regulation would require that warnings be explicit on the package and that toxic ingredients would have to be listed without abbreviations and that information leaflets on the adverse effects of smoking be inserted inside packages.

Cigarette smoking is the number one future killer of today's teenagers. Thousands of Canadians smoke their first cigarette by the time they reach adolescence.

Therefore, I urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare to step in and speed up the wheels of bureaucracy in the interest of all Canadians. A good cause delayed is a good cause denied.

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, small businesses in my riding are outraged at the latest initiative by Canada Post to increase its profitability.

Canada Post has begun an aggressive campaign to increase the corporation's share in the distribution of flyers for large national firms, a job that is currently being done by a number of smaller independently-owned operations.

Sales representatives are roaming through the marketplace and systematically undercutting the smaller operations on many of these contracts by offering prices close to 100 per cent lower than the next lowest private sector bid. Canada Post is driving the private sector into financial ruin with these predatory pricing policies.

As this is Small Business Week in Canada, I call upon the minister responsible for Canada Post to begin an immediate review of this policy to ensure this Crown corporation is not improving its own fiscal position at the expense of the small business community in this country.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mrs. Nicole Roy-Arcelin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the federal government plays a major role in helping small businesses secure loans. The Federal Business Development Bank remains one of the government's main channels to provide financing for companies.

Since its foundation in 1944 the FBDB has made loans valued at \$12 billion to more than 160,000 small- and medium-sized businesses. Some 90,000 customers benefited from its services in 1990.

That same year the FBDB gave strong support to small- and medium-sized businesses by underwriting 5,602 loans and loan guarantees worth \$963.9 million.

Note that the lending activities of the FBDB have increased in the weaker economic regions.