

*Oral Questions***CANADA POST CORPORATION**

## PLAN TO PROMOTE POSTAL RATE INCREASES

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. In their communication plan the Post Office Authority are instructing divisional directors how to manipulate Canadians in order to sell them postal rate increases and service cuts. How can the Minister allow Canada Post to manipulate Canadians instead of serving them with home delivery to new houses, better customer service, and lower rates?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the Marchment Commission consulted Canadians across the country to find out about their concerns with respect to the postal service. Since then, these concerns have been examined by the Canada Post Corporation. We have received the Corporation's recommendations, we are studying them and we will make our decisions known in due time.

UTILIZATION OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES—  
REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. How much does this public relations project cost Canada Post? Why are human and material resources available for advertising campaigns but none to ensure door-to-door mail delivery for new homes?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I think Canadians have expressed the desire to have better service and better management at Canada Post, and I can inform the Hon. Member that since this Government came to power, the Corporation's deficit has been reduced considerably, productivity has increased and absenteeism has gone down.

Mr. Speaker, all this reflects better management.

[English]

## JUSTIFICATION FOR POSSIBLE RATE INCREASE

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. Will he tell Canadians how he can justify a further increase in postal rates just after having gone through the process of cutting back on home delivery, and taking boxes off the street so that it is much more inconvenient for people to mail their letters? How can he justify a further increase in postal rates while he is continuing to cut back on postal service?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, may I simply remind my colleague that there is absolutely no question of reducing postal services;

I believe I did mention that Canada Post have drafted a business plan. It was submitted to the Government, we took it under consideration and will announce our decision at the appropriate time.

INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES—PUBLIC OPINION—GOVERNMENT  
POSITION

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, here is what I want to know from the Minister: When is he going to announce his higher price for postage stamps and, when Canadians tell him what they think, will he let ordinary people express their views that now is not the time to increase the cost of stamps, or will he simply and blindly follow the advice of Canada Post officials?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Canada Post):** Briefly, Mr. Speaker, I would remind my colleague that the Marchment Commission was set up to seek the views of Canadians with respect to postal services. It did just that, presented its recommendations to Canada Post and the Government, and they will be considered.

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[English]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

## CANADIAN PATROL FRIGATE PROGRAM

**Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. It involves the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program. We all know that unfortunate delays have taken place in this Canadian Patrol Frigate Program revolving around problems with steel. Recent press reports indicate that there are going to be further delays. Are there, in fact, going to be more delays in this program, and if so, why?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence):** I understand there was an article in *The Halifax Chronicle Herald* on October 24 which indicated that there might be further delays in the CPF Program. We are informed by the President of Saint John Shipbuilding Limited that they are on track in terms of timing.

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF FINNISH MINISTER OF SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS AND HEALTH

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in our gallery of the Honourable Matti Puhakka, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!