

## S. O. 31

er of Canada's social programs. As well, the chairman of the finance committee stated that this government has decided to eliminate universality of social programs.

One by one, members of this government, like rats boarding a sinking ship, are voicing their support for this unwarranted and vicious attack on medicare and social programs. Canadians well remember the Prime Minister's promise that social programs were a sacred trust.

Surely this Prime Minister can't expect ordinary Canadians to believe him and his government any longer. This is clearly a matter of trust and Canadians no longer trust this Prime Minister, and rightly so as one election promise is broken after another.

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[Translation]

## FIREARMS

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière):** Mr. Speaker, since the tragic events at Montreal's *École Polytechnique*, when 14 young women were killed by a man carrying a powerful weapon, there has been a major movement across the country against the use of semi-automatic weapons.

Thousands of Canadians are demanding changes in the existing legislation in order to limit the sale and possession of such weapons in Canada. People across the country, especially in Quebec, urgently request that the Minister of Justice amend the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I imagine there are enough competent people around the Minister of Justice to clarify, in a bill, the difference between weapons used for hunting and combat weapons.

I may remind the House that what is important for a hunter is accuracy, not the number of bullets fired.

Mr. Speaker, our government must act and make appropriate amendments to the present legislation, in the interests of protecting Canadian citizens.

[English]

## CANADA POST

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, the post office is an integral part of community life across rural Canada. In many cases the rural post office is the only federal presence in a community.

Last week a message was published in the local Island newspapers on behalf of a number of municipalities and organizations. It requested that the federal government maintain post offices as a government service and completely stop the closure and privatization of post offices on Prince Edward Island.

Today, representatives of the West Prince Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Municipalities will express their concerns before a standing committee of parliament looking into Canada Post.

I hope that this government will be listening to what Islanders are saying, to what Canadians are saying and that it will protect and maintain rural post offices in Canada.

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## TRADE

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, over the past month and the month before we have been hearing a great deal about the free trade agreement. One of the things we have not been hearing is that 99 per cent of our trade with the United States is now dispute free. I know that this positive trading relationship is a disappointment to our left-wing friends across the floor, but Canadian manufacturing exporters are continuing to take advantage of the free trade agreement.

• (1410)

Just last week Sweeprite Manufacturing, a Regina company, was awarded an \$18.5 million dollar contract to supply mechanized sweepers to the United States Department of National Defence. This is the kind of contract which has been made possible by the climate created since the signing of the free trade agreement and the development of the level playing field.