

S. O. 31

MICROCELL 1-2-1

Mr. Dennis J. Mills (Broadview—Greenwood, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, MicroCell 1-2-1 is turning on. The personal communications system revolution in North America has started and Canada will be the first.

MicroCell 1-2-1 has the vision, the people and the technology and the \$500 million in capital required to start building the most advanced personal communications network in Canada.

The time has come to celebrate the launch of this new era and to do that MicroCell 1-2-1 invites every Canadian child and his grandparents on Christmas Eve to visit one of the following locations and call anyone they love in the world on their public network for free.

The freedom of expression sites are the Place Fleur de Lys in Quebec, Eaton Centre in Montreal, the Bayshore Shopping Centre in Ottawa, the Pacific Centre in Vancouver and the Community Info Access Centres of Toronto.

Free long distance calls for Canadian children and their grandparents on Christmas Eve; watch your local newspapers for further details and other locations to be announced.

Congratulations to MicroCell.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

SOCIAL PROGRAM REFORM

Mr. Roger Pomerleau (Anjou—Rivière-des-Prairies, BQ): Mr. Speaker, we learned yesterday, on TV, that some people were flying to Finland on a Concord to meet with Santa Claus. Yet, I was always told that Santa Claus lived at the North Pole, and was therefore a Canadian.

Well, it is bad enough for Canadians to learn that RRSPs will be taxed and that the GST is here to stay. Social program reform, unemployment insurance cuts and tuition fee increases are nothing pleasant to put under the Christmas tree. New taxes, supposedly temporary, are no way to start the New Year.

As if we did not have enough bad news, the government is letting them take away our Santa.

Just one more thing: what happened to the red book reindeer in all this?

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[English]

PETRO-CANADA

Mr. Jay Hill (Prince George—Peace River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, in 1988 Petro-Canada entered into an agreement with Daly Enterprises of Saint John, New Brunswick. Four years later Petro-Canada, whose motto is "committed to Canadians",

renege on its commitment, saying: "If you don't like it, take us to court".

In a blatant attempt to force Daly to sell its prime locations, Petro-Canada is demanding a 24 per cent interest charge on money it claims Daly owes. This is not an isolated case.

Many Canadians are appalled by this insensitive loan shark behaviour from a company that is still 70 per cent government owned.

Last Thursday in response to a question about the bullying tactics of Petro-Canada against the Curtis family, the Minister of Natural Resources seemed surprised and said she would look into this situation.

On behalf of all Petro-Canada dealers who believe they have been shafted, it is incumbent upon the minister responsible to launch a long overdue investigation into its questionable business practices.

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[Translation]

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF BILINGUAL MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, about ten days ago, the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities held a forum in St. Boniface entitled *Think Globally, Act Locally* or *Vision globale, action locale*.

This seminar was organized to look for ways to improve economic development in our communities. Weaknesses, such as duplication and lack of planning, were mentioned and examined, but strengths were also found: a well-educated and well-trained bilingual manpower, and a deep commitment to improving the quality of life.

[English]

This is an excellent example of English and French-speaking people working together to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN FLAG

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, a resolution of the House of Commons approved the new Canadian flag. Today, we are celebrating this major event.

This flag originated at the Royal Military College in Kingston.

[English]

There one day in early 1964 the Hon. George Stanley, who was then the Dean of Arts at the Royal Military College, pointed out the RMC flag to a member of this House's flag committee, the Hon. John Matheson, who was then the member for the county of