

we have named a director for the Child Abuse Centre. There have been family violence initiatives and a missing children registry has been instituted. Special studies are now being done in four cities relating to missing children. I cannot give any more detail about that program because of time constraints. We are dealing with the matters of pornography and drug abuse.

I hope that once and for all, at least in this House, we could put aside the question of whether or not there is a drug problem. I do not care about the numbers, what I care about is that there are kids on the streets who have drug problems and we have to address that. We are trying to do so as best we can, not only as a Government but as a society.

While it is a multidisciplinary approach, we have to be as supportive as we can in our policy to families and parents. From time to time we make mistakes, but these are complex issues and I think support for non-governmental agencies, parents and different levels of government is essential if we can at least prevent some of the tragedies that were displayed yesterday, as well as rehabilitate some of those people.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST

POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT NOT TO HIRE STRIKE-BREAKERS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, during the strike staged by letter carriers in May last, which was the first postal strike since the creation of the Canada Post Corporation in 1981, the Government has allowed Canada Post to hire scabs and to stir up violence in our post offices.

Given that we are facing a possible strike by postal workers, is the Minister prepared to give a commitment today in this House that he will forbid Canada Post to hire scabs in order to avoid the shameful incidents that we have witnessed during the last strike?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, just to refresh the memory of both the Hon. Member and the House, the conciliation commissioner dealing with the LCUC dispute, Mr. Swan, commented in his report that the Post Office has a social obligation to try to deliver the mail even in the face of a strike. It attempted to fulfil that obligation and by and large did so through the use of replacement workers, which is perfectly consistent with the law. Is the Hon. Member suggesting we go beyond that?

The instructions to the Post Office are very clear. They must obey the law. They have a social obligation to deliver the mail.

Oral Questions

If the Hon. Member is suggesting we should perhaps shut down the Post Office in the face of a strike, then let him say that on behalf of his Party.

Perhaps he is suggesting we give the union everything it wants. Let him say that.

Perhaps he is suggesting that we outlaw strikes. Let him take that position. The Hon. Member cannot have the luxury of being critical without looking at the alternatives.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, it is very clear from that answer that the Minister condones Canada Post hiring scabs. Is the Minister a scab? If not, why does he not order Canada Post not to hire scabs?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I suggest the Hon. Member have a conversation with his colleague, the Hon. Member for Papineau.

Mr. Ouellet: No, no, I never authorized scabs.

Mr. Andre: He stated publicly in an interview that the Government ought not to get itself involved in the operations of the Post Office. We are not getting ourselves involved in the operations of the Post Office.

Mr. Gagliano: Then resign. We do not need a Minister.

Mr. Andre: We require Canada Post, like every other Crown corporation, to obey the law. They have a social obligation to deliver the mail, as pointed out by Commissioner Swan, and they attempted to do that.

I question the wisdom which says if someone threatens violence, that is enough to require you to take actions contrary to what your social obligations dictate.

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BANKRUPTCY ACT

TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. The Bankruptcy Act was introduced in 1949 and has not been changed since. Many Canadians are being burned by this hopelessly outdated piece of legislation. Can the Minister tell the House when we might expect the legislation he is presently working on to be brought forward so we can bring progressive changes to this hopelessly outdated Act?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Hopefully very soon, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member is right. There have been six attempts to amend the Act and all have died on the Order Paper. We are trying to avoid that fate for the proposals we are bringing forward. I will