

CANADA POST CORPORATION

INVOLVEMENT IN SALE OF SPORTS POOL TICKETS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, a Canada Post press release dated April 19, 1984, says in part:

—Canada Post has introduced a series of service improvement programs that dramatically improved the speed of delivery between major cities—

Yesterday I received a letter from Canada Post, Ottawa, dated June 6. It took five days for the letter to reach my office. What did the letter say? The letter said that:

Canada Post has decided to begin selling sports pool tickets on a trial basis in approximately 300 post offices in Alberta.

What will Canada Post be doing next? It is already experimenting with the mail order service with Consumers Distributing which it plans to evaluate thoroughly. Now it plans to go into the gambling business by selling sports pool tickets.

The reason we have the Canada Post Corporation is to deliver the mail, not to compete with businesses that pay taxes, or to sell lottery tickets. Why can't we have the type of mail delivery we had a few years ago? It takes eight to 10 days, and sometimes as long as 12 days, for a letter from my constituency to reach me.

● (1410)

At some post offices in Alberta, Canadians have to stand in line for lengthy periods to get their mail. Now the post office staff is to be given another chore, namely, to sell lottery tickets. Canada Post should be told to improve its mail delivery service.

The odds on winning a lottery are about a million to one. Will the odds on getting our mail be the same? The people of Canada have a big enough gamble now to get their mail without starting another gamble in our post offices.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

FUND ALLOCATIONS FOR CO-OPERATIVE AND NON-PROFIT HOUSING

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in protesting CMHC cutbacks for co-operative and non-profit housing. There has been a 45 per cent over-all reduction in the number of units compared to last year. In B.C. units are down from an inadequate 2,200 to 1,800. Only a very small percentage of this allocation will go to co-op housing. I have also had complaints that allocations are based on favouritism since allocations are now made by staff in the Minister's office rather than by CMHC professionals.

There are thousands of low income people in my riding alone who are living in downtown Vancouver rooms or cheap hotels who urgently need decent, affordable housing. Profit making developers are renovating or replacing older accommodation in preparation for Expo '86. Few units are being allocated from CMHC for those being displaced.

Oral Questions

Despite the very favourable federal land deal which was given to B.C. Place development, the Board of B.C. Place refused to include affordable housing, which was to have been part of this deal. The Minister should intervene to insist that such housing must be included, and CMHC should have extra allocations to replace downtown housing. This was done in Montreal, and Vancouver deserves similar treatment.

Finally, I want to register our Party's complaint again that the Minister responsible for CMHC refuses to adhere to the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act of Canada for co-op housing. This, in effect, is a union busting policy—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has, unfortunately, expired.

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POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to use this opportunity to express my utter disgust at the way the Government of Canada is treating Canadians through the sports pool.

I have reached the point where I do not believe there is any misuse of public funds below which the Liberal Party would not sink.

We now know reliably that sports pool ticket sales have fallen to less than 200,000 from the original 500,000. The point that has to be made in this House of Commons to Members opposite, and to those who stand to lose, those the Government was told would be affected in medical research in amateur sports, throughout this country—because the Government was told this pool would fail at the beginning—is that decent thinking Canadians believe the Government of Canada set up the sports pool entirely to break its arrangement with the provinces, entirely to put all Liberals on the payroll of the Government of Canada, in full awareness that the sports pool would fail, and that Canadians would have to shell out funds to people who have two-year severance contracts.

I believe that the House of Commons has an obligation to express to the Government its utter, utter disgust at the way the Government has treated people through the sports pool.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN INITIAL GRAIN PRICES

Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. It is most important at