

S.O. 31

CANADA POST

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Canada Post is thinking of closing the Thorold post office.

It disturbs me that none of this was discussed with the workers or the union officials. The minister responsible has not come forward openly to my constituents to tell them of these plans. Why must this degenerate into a situation where my constituents must try to ascertain the facts from rumours and half truths only hinted at by local management? The hon. minister should be above such cloak and dagger methods.

I come to the point. My party and I are most adamantly opposed to such a move. The Thorold post office has been in operation for 40 years. The level of service has been exemplary. The workers have been able to provide many services that were not available to people in many larger communities. Here we are, faced again with the destruction of small town Canada, the backbone of this nation. We will have more centralization, higher prices, more line-ups and less service. This scenario is just not good enough for my constituents.

This move was attempted four years ago by this government. My constituents are as incensed now as they were then. I say again, do not close the Thorold post office.

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REFUGEES

Mr. Harry Chadwick (Bramalea—Gore—Malton): Mr. Speaker, the region of Peel is breaking under the strain of providing welfare for the largest refugee population in all of Canada, and they are getting no relief from government.

Well over a dozen reports have been developed by the region and have been submitted to all levels of government requesting that a way be found to accelerate the process of refugee determination so that refugees may then have the freedom to seek work and support themselves.

Every year, the region finds the burden of providing welfare services a greater and near impossible responsibility. The region is justifiably confused. What is its

obligation under the general welfare act to provide for an increasing number of refugees who must use overburdened welfare services to survive? More importantly, should the regional government have to pay while the government tries to improve the system?

I urge the government to work closely with the regions and the provinces to find a better solution now before the system becomes irreparable.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, an agreement was signed this week, with Premier Bourassa in attendance, by the management of the Korean company Sammi-Atlas and representatives from the CNTV to allow the investment of half a billion in Tracy, Quebec.

This special agreement could have major significance not only for labour relations, but also for the future of the Quebec economy.

Over the past several months, the Quebec Minister of Industry and Commerce, Gérald Tremblay, set out on a mission to convince people of the merits, benefits and necessity of a new social contract in Quebec.

The union approved a six-year collective agreement whereby in three years' time, only salaries will be on the table for negotiation avoiding the possibility of a strike or a lockout, while the company is committed to invest in manpower training and to set up a joint committee on training.

A big cheer for the people of Tracy!

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[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is carrying out a scorched earth policy against the CBC. He has finally shown his true disdain for our public broadcaster by appointing John Crispo to the CBC board of directors.

Mr. Crispo, as we know, has repeatedly shown his contempt for the CBC, and by his appointment can only hope to wreak further havoc.