

Post Corporation, the objective was improved services, better labour-management relations and a reduced deficit.

After six years, under a Conservative Government, the objective has become a reduced postal service, accelerated deficit reduction and a threatened strike.

The Conservative Government has completely ignored the recommendation of the Marchment Commission to give the Canada Post Corporation until 1990 to solve its deficit problem.

Why accelerate deficit reduction? We are now facing a strike, and according to the report of the conciliator, there could be violence in the workplace. This is how the Conservative Government solves the problems of Canadian society.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PRESENCE OF AIR FRANCE CONCORDE AT VAL D'OR IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the city of Val d'Or celebrated the inauguration of the new regional air terminal of the Abitibi—Témiscamingue region and northern Quebec on Friday, June 5, with the coming of the Air France Concorde.

The big white bird came from New York to land on one of the longest runways in Canada. Twenty-three years after being designed, this French and British supersonic airplane still provokes wonder and astonishment. The artisans of this event were the airport general manager, Mr. Daniel Bleau, of Transport Canada, and Dr. Alfred Lomsy of the *Association pour le développement de l'anesthésie-analgésie en régions éloignées*, who is also from Val d'Or.

This was quite a challenge for northern residents. Schools were closed, buses were chartered everywhere in Abitibi for the event, and 10,000 people were able to watch this magnificent plane.

One hundred Abitibi residents made the trip from Val d'Or to Mirabel on the Concorde, returning that same evening on an Air Canada flight organized by Mr. Jean-Claude Tétrault, director.

The management of Air France and the Concorde pilots will be able to say throughout the world: Yes, we went to Val d'Or, in Abitibi, and we shall go back there because the people are wonderful.

• (1410)

[English]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES—CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, as has been brought up in the House a number of times over the last little while by my Leader, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), and by the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom), the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion is having a serious problem with its budget. Right now there exists a situation in which in the first two months of this year the Government has managed to spend \$100 million more than was allocated for the entire fiscal year.

The Government has announced that it is cutting back and freezing funds for native people who rely on the Department's programs. In addition, the people of the Northwest Territories are adversely affected. One-fifth of the Territories' annual budget comes from these funds.

We must have a public inquiry into this situation. We must know what amounts have been spent. We must know who authorized the amounts. We must have some mechanism to ensure that native people and northerners do not suffer from the Government's incompetence.

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HIGHWAYS

AGREEMENT TO UPGRADE YELLOWHEAD HIGHWAY

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, in October of 1986 the Government announced that it would join with its Saskatchewan counterpart to upgrade the Yellowhead Highway.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that on Friday, June 5, I was a witness to the \$22 million agreement which will set in motion restoration and widening of this vital northern route.

The upgrading of the Yellowhead will not only improve access to Canada's northern industrial and resource development areas, it will also provide a safer, more efficient highway for those Canadians travelling in the west.

I know that in Saskatoon alone this project will have a significant effect on highway safety, eliminating two particularly hazardous traffic areas, the Eighth Street traffic circle and Circle Drive, and a narrow strip of highway on the south end of the city.

I wish to commend the federal and provincial Governments for their ongoing co-operation in developing this vital tourist and commercial highway.