

*S. O. 21*

in our history, there was no west, no east, no centre, no periphery, only Canadians, all wearing the same uniform and united in purpose.

Let us pray for a vision of Canada in a peaceful world that could do for us in peacetime what was done for us in war on that morning.

\* \* \*

## AGRICULTURE

### NEED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

**Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, work toward overcoming problems of farm finance and work toward overcoming problems of soil degradation must not be taken in isolation one from the other. Only about 5 per cent of Canada's land area has a significant agricultural capability. Most of that land is already under production and threatened by any number of sources of soil degradation. If our soil disappears, so do our farmers, our jobs and the very food we eat.

As the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and many others have pointed out, soil conservation is everybody's business. A commitment to soil conservation is required by all if Canada is to feed present and future generations. This commitment must come not just from farmers but also from consumers, farm chemical and farm machinery producers, and Governments.

I welcome the initiative taken by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) and his Department to launch a major public awareness campaign related to soil conservation in Canada. I welcome the federal Government's commitment to working on the problem of soil degradation, but I would like to remind the House that soil conservation efforts must be taken in accord with, and not in opposition to, efforts taken by the Government to help farmers overcome problems of capital restructuring, debt financing, low commodity prices and other problems of farm finance. It is a tall order, but it is one that this Government can deliver.

\* \* \*

## PETRO-CANADA

### POTENTIAL TO PROMOTE COMPETITION

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the Conservative Government realizes that Canada's public interest, like that of all other industrialized countries, involves ensuring an adequate supply of energy at reasonable prices.

The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission report "Competition in the Petroleum Industry" released in May, 1986, concluded that Petro-Canada should play a leading role

in providing a stable and competitive market-place. The report stated:

The fact that (Petro-Canada) is government owned—offers a unique opportunity to . . . use Petro-Canada's potential to promote competition in an industry where the extent of concentration in conjunction with vertical integration continually threatens the vigour of market forces . . . Petro-Canada gives the Government the opportunity to reduce the competitive restraints and associated public cost of that market, not only without having to pass special laws, but in ongoing pervasive ways that could not be achieved by laws.

The Government is planning to sell off Petro-Canada. This Tory Government is simply and clearly not capable of defending Canada's public interest when it comes to ensuring an adequate supply of energy at reasonable prices.

\* \* \*

• (1415)

## THE ECONOMY

### ALBERTA—TREATMENT BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, these are bleak days in Alberta. The economy is stalled, the ranks of the unemployed are swelling, and the food banks are packed. From Red Deer to Lethbridge, from Lac La Biche to Coutts, and from Three Hills to my home town of Longview, people are asking themselves whose interests the federal Government is standing up for? Apparently it is not the interests of ordinary Albertans.

What average Albertans want is what Canadians in all parts of Canada want. They want to be treated and respected as first-class citizens. They do not want their problems and their hardships to be an afterthought. After all, the problems facing someone who is unemployed in Edmonton are the same as those faced by someone who is unemployed in Montreal, Chicoutimi, or Windsor. Yet there is a growing feeling in Alberta that its concerns, its problems, and its aspirations are not being treated by the Government with the same degree of attention as the concerns of other provinces. When voices are raised pointing out the situation, they are threatened, muzzled, and silenced. This is no way to deal with those who seek to express the true sentiments of average Albertans.

Alberta can make a dynamic and exciting contribution to Canada. It is time that Alberta and Albertans were not taken for granted by the Government. Perhaps next time Albertans will ask themselves just who really speaks up for average Albertans and their families.

\* \* \*

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

### NON-DELIVERY OF MAIL TO SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, I want to read to the House a letter which I received: