

S.O. 21

roughly \$100 million of that is mail order business. The Photo Marketing Association International estimates that 500 jobs will be immediately wiped out if the mail increase for packages is approved. The crippling price hike would also give a great advantage to foreign mail order photo finishers who need not pay Canadian federal sales tax or customs duties.

The Government is committed to making life better for Canadians, not worse, so we must abort these cruel measures as they pertain to the photo marketing industry.

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BANK OF CANADA

CAFETERIA PRICES—SUBSIDIZATION OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, in December I rose in the House and asked the Governor of the Bank of Canada to end the practice of subsidizing staff cafeterias at Bank of Canada offices across the country. The Bank's out of date pricing policy at these cafeterias has cost Canadian taxpayers over \$2 million in the past five years.

I have since discovered that the prices in these cafeterias have doubled since April 1. However, I have also learned that Bank of Canada employees have been given a \$250 raise to compensate for this price increase. This clearly defeats the whole purpose of raising the prices in the first place. In effect, any savings from any increase in cafeteria prices are going in one pocket and out the other.

This indirect subsidy to Bank of Canada employees will cost Canadians almost \$500,000 per year. I urge the Governor of the Bank of Canada to stop this deplorable practice. I wish to remind him that it is not up to the people of Canada to ensure that Bank of Canada employees are well fed.

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CHARTER OF RIGHTS

SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON REVIEW OF CABINET DECISIONS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms has seen its finest hour. Since 1867 our constitutional development as a nation has been shaped by numerous court cases which have had a dramatic impact on our society. Federal-provincial relationships, economic development, human rights, language, and culture have all been profoundly affected by court cases such as *Russell v The Queen*, *The Queen v Drybones*, and *The Attorney General of Quebec v Blaikie*. Yesterday a decision was handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada which places a very significant limitation on the use of executive power in Canada.

The Court ruled that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is supreme and that Cabinet decisions are reviewable by the courts. The Charter's supremacy is now unquestioned. This landmark decision has blazed a constitutional trail which helps

define the relationship of the citizen, the state, and the Constitution.

● (1110)

This is a victory for Canadian civil liberties and a victory for Canadian civil rights. In every sense it is a victory for all Canadians. Operation Dismantle should be congratulated for its courage in challenging the Government of Canada, thus allowing the Supreme Court to render this momentous decision.

This organization now faces a substantial legal bill which threatens its continued existence. Because this court decision benefits all Canadians, I call on the Government of Canada to pay the legal costs in this case. It is indeed a small price to pay for what every Canadian has gained.

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

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THE SENATE

CALL FOR ABOLITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, to no one's surprise we have recently learned that there were no responses to a questionnaire circulated in the Senate by one of their own concerning the duties of a Senator. The invitation to justify their existence was met with, to quote the Senator who sent it around, "unanimous silence". All the more reason to abolish the Senate.

What the Government currently proposes is that the Senate be reduced, through limiting its power, to its essence, i.e., a house of political patronage. Gone will be the facade of real political power. Only the pork barrel will remain. Also gone will be anything left on which to justify the continued existence of the Upper Chamber, except the uses the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has for it in making political pay-offs.

Perhaps the Prime Minister would be induced to abolish the Senate if we agreed to let him use it as his personal lounge. Given his recent refusal to stay in a hotel that was good enough for Cabinet Ministers but not for him, the presidential style of this Prime Minister is on the verge of becoming monarchical. The Senate Chamber would make a perfect place for the Prime Minister to retire in the evenings to enjoy his delusions of grandeur, a place where so many have been deluded by so little for so long.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE ECONOMY

REDUCTIONS IN INTEREST AND MORTGAGE RATES

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, in the last few days we have seen the Bank of Canada rate fall below 10