

of postmistress. Miss Cliff recently accepted a Canada Post plaque honouring the centennial of the community post office.

● (1405)

There is a rich history of community involvement in the post office. Henry Wilson was the postmaster for 16 years, and Dorothy Aspelund was the first female appointed to the postmistress position in Agassiz. She served for 19 years.

The community of Agassiz has been growing in the last decade, and a second rural route was established in 1980 to meet the needs of this fine community.

Hats off to the people of Agassiz and to your post office! You have set a fine example for many other community post offices in B.C. and Canada. Congratulations!

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MISSING CHILDREN

RETURN OF ABDUCTED HAMILTON BOY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, in the dog days of summer we do not often get good news. However, I had some last week.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago I raised in this House the case of a young boy who had been abducted by one of his parents and who had gone missing for several months. Last week that boy was returned to the care of his mother in the city of Hamilton.

I think one of the reasons for the happy ending to what could have been a very sad story was the fine work done by the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police and, in particular, Sgt. Wilde, who worked diligently day and night on the case. The boy's mother and other family members never gave up hope that he would be reunited with his mother.

I know that there are hundreds of other missing children, many of whom have been abducted by a parent. I want to ask those parents to remember this. An abducted child, a child who is away from his home, is not a happy or contented child. Think about the child. In this case we had a happy ending. If those parents who really love their children think about them, they will reunite them with their family environment.

I am extremely happy that this story had a happy ending.

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[Translation]

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

RESEARCH IN QUÉBEC—GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, once again, the Conservative Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr.

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Masse) has given the Province of Quebec a helping hand. He announced that an earth sciences research centre would be set up in Quebec, in cooperation with the Quebec Institute of Scientific Research, in addition to an energy research laboratory in northwestern Quebec. The creation of this laboratory in Abitibi-Témiscamingue will be welcomed by the mining industry.

Decisions such as this by the Conservative Minister will enable all Canadians, from Quebec and elsewhere, to contribute to the national policies of his Department. The Department must be present in Quebec, just as Quebecers must be present in the Department.

Mr. Speaker, that is the result of the excellent work done by the Conservative Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) and Hon. Member for Frontenac.

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[English]

SHIPBUILDING

PROPOSAL TO BUILD MINESWEEPER PATROL VESSELS

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, it has long since become clear that the Mulroney Government has no shipbuilding policy beyond the assignment of government work to one shipyard or another.

Similarly, the last Liberal Government used special capital recovery projects to provide vessels for the Coast Guard. The present Conservative Government uses naval construction and refits to keep shipyards working.

The award of work on the HMCS *Nipigon* to Port Weller Dry Docks last week marked the application of this practice to an Ontario yard. Ontario shipyards have suffered severely from the shipbuilding depression. Collingwood was closed two years ago, and Port Arthur Shipbuilding is forced to rely on repair work alone.

A consortium led by Canadian Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd. has proposed construction of minesweeper patrol vessels for the Canadian Navy. The consortium has proposed distribution of this work to yards in Ontario and Quebec, as well as in the Atlantic and Pacific regions.

I urge the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) to recognize the Navy's need for these vessels and the shipyards' needs for the work. I urge the Minister to award this contract to the consortium led by CSEL.