

S.O. 21

The quicker these questions are answered the better we will know if our Government is serious about its commitment regarding Arctic sovereignty.

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THE SABBATH

EMERGENCE OF SUNDAY SHOPPING PRACTICES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the current controversy over Sunday shopping raises several questions. For Christians, and for those who value our Christian traditions, the widespread acceptance of Sunday shopping signals the fact that we do indeed live, ironically, in both a thoroughly secular and a religiously plural society. This means that Sunday shopping cannot and should not be opposed on a narrow sabbatarian basis.

But most traditional religious practices are grounded in some profound insight about the nature and needs of human life, and this is certainly true of sabbath keeping. The whole notion of rest and of rhythm, and of the community's right and need to institute socially chosen rest times and, indeed, the very existence of public time, are at stake in this debate.

From a class perspective many shift workers who want to shop on Sunday are being played off against the shift workers in stores who want to rest on Sunday, while the only thing for sure is that owners, with the exception of some small business-people, will be able to stay at home on Sunday and worship their market share. To my mind Sunday shopping is one of the final victories of capitalism, of Mammon, and the idolatry of commodity fetishism.

Our Constitution states that we recognize the supremacy of God. If the Supreme Court rules in favour of Sunday shopping why don't we drop the pretense, and rewrite it to read "supremacy of the market-place"? And if it does so on the basis of the Charter, in the name of freedom of religion, God forgive those of us who voted for the Charter.

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● (1405)

CANADA POST CORPORATION

NEED FOR BETTER RURAL MAIL SERVICE

Mr. Walter Van de Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, rural mail delivery service in Canada cannot be curtailed. While many Canadians enjoy five-day-a-week door-to-door mail service, Canada Post gives rural residents two-day-a-week delivery. That is for the fortunate few. The rest have to pick up their mail. They are also saddled with an additional cost to rent boxes. When I am told that our postal service is fair and equitable, I say "Hogwash".

Last week in an Edmonton newspaper, John Bail, President of the Edmonton Local of the Canadian Union of Postal Employees, was quoted as saying: "By manipulating the Post Office, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is cutting hundreds of jobs, probably thousands". Instead of making irresponsible statements, my advice to Mr. Bail would be to give leadership to his membership. Motivate them to be productive, and instil pride in their work. I am firmly convinced that with a high degree of efficiency in the postal service, we can avoid postal service cuts and—

Mr. Speaker: I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

DR. ROSALIE BERTELL—RECOGNITION OF WORK FOR HUMANITY

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Members of the House of Commons will be pleased to know that Dr. Rosalie Bertell is being honoured today in the Swedish Houses of Parliament with the Right Livelihood Award which is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize.

A scholar, a scientist, a member of the Order of Grey Nuns, an author, an activist, and currently Director of Research at the International Institute of Concern for Public Health, Sister Rosalie has devoted her energies and considerable abilities to working for humanity and against the escalation and development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. In 1986, the International Year of Peace, it is especially fitting that the international community has chosen to honour Dr. Rosalie Bertell who has spent decades of her life in a dauntless and uncompromising crusade for truth and peace.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

SUPPORT FOR SALE OF CANADAIR

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, much has been said in recent weeks regarding the privatization of Canadair, Canada's leading airframe manufacturer. For purely political reasons members of the Opposition have been delaying the passage of Bill C-25 which would authorize the transfer of ownership of Canadair from CDIC to Bombardier Ltd., one of Quebec's most successful entrepreneurial societies.

Privatization with new managerial inputs and controls is good for the Government and the buyer. It is good for the Canadian aviation industry, and is particularly good for Montreal. It is good for the workers who are calling for support of the government Bill.