

has to work in accordance with what is Government policy. One could separate Canada Post as a Crown corporation, but the buck still ends up with the Government of the day. Government policy has been to try to get Canada Post to eliminate its deficit over a period of years, and to start making money. When there is a policy such as that in a service industry—

Mr. Andre: Like the British Post Office, which you praise.

Mr. Benjamin: If my hon. friend would take a look at all the other services provided by the British Post Office that Canada Post does not provide, he would find that there are people in that country who use the Post Office for a lot more than just buying a stamp, mailing a letter or picking up mail. I do not want to compare the two because there is a high density population there and very short distances, so the two are not comparable. That is probably one other reason why they have a better chance to break even, or even to make a modest profit.

That is the other thing that the successive managements of the Post Office in Canada, all of them, have completely forgotten. We always will have a higher cost in transportation and communications. It is inevitable and it is unavoidable. We are geographically the second largest nation in the world. We are in a northern climate, cold and harsh, with a small, widely-scattered population. Of course our costs will be higher.

One has one's head in the sand if one thinks that they can be brought down in line with the United States or some countries in Europe. That is out of all reality. Our costs will be higher, and I resent that being taken out on the employees of Canada Post.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Since we will be starting a speech on debate, is it the pleasure of the House to call it one o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At 12.55 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

PANEL'S REJECTION OF CANADIAN COUNTERVAIL DUTY ON BEEF IMPORTS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, in 1984 the European Economic Community dramatically increased its shipments of subsidized beef from Ireland and Denmark to

Canada to some 50 million pounds per year. The Government imposed quotas and then backed off. Subsequently the Canadian Cattlemen's Association launched a countervail suit against the EEC. That was sustained by the government agencies in Canada.

Recently we learned that this countervail duty of 80 cents a pound on subsidized beef from the EEC has been turned down by a GATT panel. The GATT panel report will be presented to the full GATT committee. Canada has an opportunity to turn down that report, and maintain the countervail duty.

I call upon the Government to turn down this report and continue the countervail duty on EEC beef to bring order to the Canadian agriculture and meat marketing situation.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MATANE PAPERMILL—GOVERNMENT'S ACTION

Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia—Matane): Mr. Speaker, our Government has just made an offer to the Donohue company and Rexfor, a Crown corporation, to set up a regional paper mill in Matane.

Today, I wish to thank and congratulate my honorable friends for giving their support to this major economic project. A few stages remain to be covered before the construction work can begin. Now all the interested parties have finally given their go ahead, to the greatest satisfaction of a proud and resourceful population.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, by supporting this project, our Government shows to the whole of Canada that regional development remains a priority for the Conservative Party. It is now the responsibility of promoters Donohue-Maxwell and Rexfor to make a decision.

Now, the people in Matane know where all the parties stand. There are still a few details to iron out before this matter is finally settled.

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[English]

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

TRIBUTE TO WORK OF CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, this is Co-Operative Development Week in Canada. Co-operatives have become such an integral part of our lives that many of us tend to take them for granted or, worse yet, view them as a vestige of some bygone era. In fact, they continue to be a modern way of adapting economic activity to democratic