

At the critical juncture in the political evolution of Canada, we need strengthened French, English, northern and international Canadian services providing an independent Canadian perspective. These Draconian cuts are a disservice to all Canadians. It is time for the CBC's board of directors to stand up and call this Government to account, for it is obvious they cannot count on this Minister. I suggest that the arts community does the same thing.

* * *

[Translation]

SPACE AGENCY

LOCATION OF AGENCY

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, following today's announcement by the Minister of Transport (Mr. G. Bouchard) and Mr. Larkin Kerwin, president of the Canadian Space Agency, the new Canadian Space Agency will be located in Québec, in the greater metropolitan area of Montreal, near the Saint-Hubert airport.

The Minister of Transport told the media yesterday: "We should stop fighting about aspects that are totally removed from the fundamentals of the problem and concentrate on getting as much as we can for Québec—This is a useless debate that diminishes the impact of our comments as Québécois because it makes us look very parochial, at a time when we should be concentrating on what is good for the entire province".

Mr. Speaker, whether they live in Longueuil, Laval, Saint-Hubert or Saint-Laurent, Québécois have enough common sense to realize that they are still in the metropolitan area of Montreal.

* * *

[English]

ESTONIA

CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, on March 26 of this year, the people of Estonia enjoyed their first free elections in over 50 years of Soviet rule.

These free elections are at the very heart of a long struggle toward political and economic autonomy leading eventually to the possible restoration of full independence and sovereignty.

S.O. 31

We are pleased to have with us today members of the Popular Front, a movement that has recently been acknowledged by the Kremlin, and which has been at the forefront of the radical reforms taking place in Estonia.

The time has come for Canada to promote trade and economic ties with Central and Eastern Europe. As these countries move closer to freedom and independence, they will need our support and commitment to achieve political and economic success.

Canada should adopt a resolution similar to that passed in the United States Congress in February of this year that called on the countries involved to revoke the seizure and occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

* * *

NATIONAL REVENUE

REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, United Parcel Service, the largest parcel delivery service in North America, has been licensed in British Columbia to act as a customs broker.

On or about April 7, acting on reliable information regarding questionable conduct of this company, a regional collector for Revenue Canada refused to allow its licence to be renewed and asked UPS to show cause as to why it should not be revoked.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, acting on concerns identified by businesses in my constituency, my office documented considerable evidence of this company's pattern of diverting goods from interior customs entry points to Vancouver where its own customs brokerage is located.

Not only does this practice contravene explicit instructions of the receiver, but it also reduces the volume of goods required to achieve economy of scale necessary for commercial operators to service interior routes and denies customs brokers in Osoyoos business which is rightfully theirs.

The behaviour of UPS in British Columbia has been disruptive to the normal flow of goods across the border and has without justification caused interminable delays to B.C. customers awaiting delivery of goods.

I call upon the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Jelinek) to hold a full investigation into the activities of this U.S.-based company before any renewal of licence is granted.