

S. O. 31

It is up to us as politicians to restore the confidence of Canadians in our institutions and to do this, we must make representative democracy what it was truly meant to be. At this crucial juncture in our history I would encourage all parliamentarians to do one thing, and that is listen to the people.

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CANADA POST

Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I have recently received several letters of concern regarding the closure of rural post offices. Many of my constituents are worried about the fate of local postmasters and the future accessibility of postal services. They are also concerned about the future identify of their communities.

Rural post offices have added a great deal to the life and growth of rural communities in Canada. They have often become the hub or the focal point of small towns.

I ask that the government carefully consider the unique realities of rural communities in Canada before utilizing the rural conversion program and closing the traditional post offices.

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WOLVERINE COPPER

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, another Canadian branch plant bites the dust.

Wolverine Copper, western Canada's only tubing manufacturer, has thumbed its nose at the Canadian government, shut down and shipped out to greener pastures. Despite repeated appeals from the workers, this government sat on its hands and allowed 175 British Columbian jobs to go down the tube.

The Alabama based company will now service the western Canadian market from its U.S. operations. It is tragic that this government refused to use its legislative powers to force the sale of the B.C. plant. It refused to assist in a financial restructuring to help preserve B.C. jobs.

But when unemployment goes up in Quebec, this same government coughs up a much needed \$160 million

financial aid package. While B.C. workers and prairie farmers go home empty handed Quebec's needs are met. Is this fair? It is no wonder western Canadians have become so cynical toward this government.

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[Translation]

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval-Ouest): Mr. Speaker, on the weekend, in its search for new ideas, the Liberal Party of Canada met in Aylmer to listen to what Canadians had to say about economic recovery. A number of clear messages came out of this meeting and were well received by the federal leader, who wants to make them part of his election platform; education, economic development, competitiveness, reducing the deficit, reform of political institutions, consistent policies, and so forth.

It is too bad it took the Liberals seven years to recognize the fact that the Progressive Conservative Party's policies are sound. Hon. members will recall that as soon as he came to power in 1984, the Prime Minister announced those same policies, for the greater benefit of Canadians. At the time, his ideas were not revolutionary but realistic, reflecting his great vision. The Liberals finally got the message. There are still a few dissidents, but I hope their leader will be able to convert them.

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FIGURE SKATING

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, for the third time since the first championships in 1976, Canada is hosting the World Junior Figure Skating Championships. This week, 118 of the world's best young skaters from 26 different countries, including our own Canadian champions, Netty Kim and Jeffrey Langdon, will compete at the Robert Guertin arena in Hull, Quebec.

• (1410)

[English]

Last night Caroline Haddad and Jean-Sebastien Fecteau of Montreal captured the silver medal in the pairs free skating program. This was the first time since 1981 that a Canadian duo won a world junior medal in the pairs competition.