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[English]

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals in this House are very proud of their connection with the Ontario Liberals. They believe Lyn McLeod is going to be the next premier of Ontario.

The federal Liberals support the Ontario Liberals' red book policy. The Canadian finance minister has gone so far as to interfere in the provincial election by ridiculing Ontario Tory policies. However, speaking of ridicule, I wonder just how proud Lyn McLeod is of the federal Liberals. Why does she not ridicule federal Liberal policy that will see the continuation of the MPs' very own porky pension plan?

Ontario Liberals understand the revulsion that Canadians feel toward their MPP pension plan and say in their Ontario red book they are going to scrap the porky plan.

Meanwhile, federal Liberals are poised to vote for their pension plan. They want to hide it from Canadian taxpayers in committee, which makes me wonder if federal Liberals are proud of Lyn McLeod. Is she ashamed of them?

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CN RAIL

Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal red book highlighted the importance of Canada's infrastructure to our economy. Yet the Liberal government has done another about face by selling off CN Rail which takes away a vital link in our transportation infrastructure.

The Canadian people will no longer be participants in our rail economy, the transportation link that built Canada.

In preparation for the sell-off, CN laid off 11,000 Canadians. As a former trainman for CN Rail, I saw firsthand the good work done in bringing grain and other Canadian products to market. I am one of thousands of Canadians who are deeply concerned about even further job loss caused by putting CN Rail on the auction block.

With no rules on foreign ownership, CN is destined, with the Liberal government's blessing, to be purchased by individuals and corporations with no interest in Canada's future. The Liberal government is exchanging an east-west transportation system for a north-south system that will see even more foreign control of the Canadian economy.

Bill C-89 brings to an end Canadians' ownership and control of their own railway and only leaves further job loss and more debt for Canada.

PORT PERRY CADET CORPS

Mr. Alex Shepherd (Durham, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are being visited today by the Port Perry Cadet Corps. This corps of young men, who attend both elementary and secondary school, has a long history of achievements.

Having been formed in 1898, they are now fast approaching their 100th anniversary. The purpose is not to train soldiers but to train young men for the responsibilities of citizenship.

Being a part of the Department of National Defence, they have expressed to me their concerns about possible reduced funding, especially since they are often dependent on the local forces base, many of which are now closing. They also expressed to me the need to get funding down to the level of local decision makers. Highly centralized authority often makes inappropriate decisions with respect to local needs.

● (1405)

I would like to thank Major Doodley and the 40 young men of the Port Perry Cadet Corps who have made such a major contribution to our community.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the United Nation's International Day of Families which is being celebrated today.

The United Nations calls the family the most crucial link between generations, the purveyor of human culture, the primary source for love, sustenance and shelter. I too call the family the most important grouping of people in our society. On this day to honour families I want to take a moment to honour my own.

The family unit is fundamental to our society. Through our families we strive to make the world a better place. Through our families we hope to achieve harmony in the world by promoting healthy values and instilling tolerance, understanding and compassion in our children.

Families struggle to maintain cohesiveness in these stressful times of social and economic change. Households are changing but the family unit remains intact and strong as each member supports the others.

The family is our strongest bond. I invite my colleagues to join with me today in honouring our families.