

*S.O. 21*

have about half of their crops caught under the snow. While some of the grain left over winter can be recovered, there will be high losses in bushel weight, and substantial losses in quality. Yes, they have access to crop insurance, but so did farmers in northeastern Saskatchewan, when they were flooded out last year, and they got disaster relief payments. When flooding occurred in northeast Saskatchewan, Conservatives in opposition said that a disaster area should be declared immediately and would be, if they were the federal Government.

The fact is that provincial Governments decide whether to declare a disaster area. Because of the unique geography of the Peace River area, both Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta must move together. Why won't these two Governments join in an application to the federal Government for the Peace River area to be declared a disaster area? What are they waiting for? Perhaps another election. That is what it took to get action for the flooded-out farmers in Saskatchewan. It is time these Governments began to fulfil their responsibilities to farmers in distress. Where is the advantage in having Conservatives in Ottawa, and Conservatives in Edmonton and Victoria, if they only co-operate in doing nothing?

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**CANADA POST CORPORATION**

## LACK OF SERVICE FOR MEDICAL CENTRE

**Mr. Gerry Weiner (Dollard):** Mr. Speaker, statements in the press have given Canadians the impression that the recent agreement between Canada Post and its union guarantees Canadians their mail delivery.

Every riding in this country contains Canadians denied mail service. Canada Post has done something no other institute can legally do. It has created second class Canadian citizens, second class because they have invested in Canada's future and purchased new homes. Is this the way to treat Canadians who believe in the future?

The situation is so bad that a new medical centre in my riding is denied mail service that buildings on either side receive. There are 35 doctors, plus a new children's clinic, which cannot get mail service. An entire medical centre is denied speedy access to test results. Blood tests are hand-delivered by patients. Why? Because the post office marks them "return to sender" and does not deliver to their building.

This type of disgraceful behaviour by a Crown corporation cannot be allowed to continue. I urge the Members of this House to put pressure on this corporation so that there will no longer be two classes of Canadians and that all Canadians will get mail service, service we all pay for as taxpayers.

[Translation]

**HOUSING**

## SUBSIDIES FOR RENOVATION OF CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING UNITS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, last week, representatives of housing co-operatives in the Montreal area, of technical support groups for social housing and of Canada housing co-operatives sat in the office of the Hon. Member for Verdun-Saint-Paul (Mr. Chartrand) to show their disagreement with the Minister responsible for Housing in Canada about the possible suppression of subsidies paid for the renovation of co-operative housing units.

Mr. Speaker, should the Hon. Members of this House take such a decision, there is the danger in the first place that housing co-operatives will disappear and secondly, that there will be a rather substantial increase in rents for social housing. I therefore ask all the hon. members of this House to suggest to the Minister responsible for Housing—

**Ms. Copps:** He is not listening!

**Mr. Malépart:**—who is not listening—to refrain from such action, to maintain the funds earmarked for that purpose and to borrow from the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Nielsen) some \$5 million from the \$100 million required to implement the stupid decision to send more soldiers in Europe.

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[English]

**AUDITOR GENERAL**

## FEDERAL COURT ACTION—DEPUTY MINISTER'S SUBMISSION

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, Parliament has a new champion. It is not a duly elected Member of the House of Commons or even an appointed Member of the malignant Senate. Our protector is a bureaucrat, even worse, a lawyer. He is the Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, Ian Binnie. Mr. Binnie exhorted the Federal Court of Canada to dismiss the claim of the Auditor General. Kenneth Dye, he says, has assumed leadership of an extra-parliamentary non-elected Opposition. The Auditor General does not need me to defend his actions with respect to Petro-Canada's takeover of Petrofina against this outlandish and arrogant criticism. But I have a message for Mr. Binnie, virtually everyone of political integrity supports the Auditor General in his search for truth. The only reservation is whether the investigation should extend to areas protected by secrecy in the public interest.

There is a delicate balance between the public's right to know and the necessity for cabinet confidence. Mr. Binnie does not aid the rendering of judicious decision by attacking the person and clouding the issue. The real victim of Mr. Binnie's outrageous invective is not the Auditor General or Parliament, but the judicial process.