

Oral Questions

FORMER COMMITTEE RESEARCH CONTRACTOR'S VIEWS

[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

NEED FOR ADEQUATE POSTAL SERVICE FOR VILLAGE OF
UMIUJAQ IN ABITIBI

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation. For some months now, I have been trying to get adequate postal service for the Village of Umiujaq in Abitibi. Could I possibly have a positive answer this week, so that the people in that remote community can get adequate postal service, because Canada Post's fanthom President Landers has no concern for those people's isolation? Mr. Minister, I want action.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumers and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member's question, I enquired from officials of Canada Post Corporation this morning. They assured me that postal services will be provided to the Village of Umiujaq in the coming week.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: Canada Post Corporation is now consulting with the town's mayor, and also with the Member of Parliament, to make sure that the service provided is adequate.

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[English]

CHILD CARE

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As the Minister knows, the research director of the Special House of Commons Committee on Child Care has decided not to renew his contract with the committee, claiming that there has been interference with the work of the committee.

Would the Minister not agree that, given the urgent concern of Canadian families about the lack of affordable child care in the country, those families must have confidence in the integrity of the committee's report?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the House will receive that report this month.

An Hon. Member: But tampered with.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I suggest to Hon. Members that they do not know the contents of the report. I think we would all be wise to judge the report and its contents when it is made public.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. I do not think he understands the question. The question is with regard to the concerns which have been raised by the research director of this committee who is reported to have said that his "concern was more the research integrity of the report, that the text itself was consistent with the data and what our understanding was of what the hearings had said". The director of research seems to be saying that there has been interference.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has obviously tried to be generous in this matter. However, it seems to me that the question directed to the Minister is about something which took place in a committee. Unless the Member can rephrase his question to address a matter of ministerial responsibility, the Member is getting very close to being out of order. Perhaps the Member could rephrase the question.

Mr. Young: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could direct the question to the chairperson of the committee rather than to the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member wishes to direct the question to the chairperson of the committee. Questions to chairpersons of committees are in order, but they are limited to scheduling and administrative procedures in the committees. I think that in this case that would probably be out of order also.

Mr. Young: Can I try the question anyway?

Mr. Broadbent: How do you know what the supplementary question is?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member could consider whether he wishes to place another question to the Minister. In the meantime I think it is appropriate to recognize the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER CANADIAN POPULATION WILL HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): I have a question for the Prime Minister. Since his Government has been procrastinating for two and a half years on the subject of child care, and it now appears that the Director of Research for the Committee on Child Care has resigned, we would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can guarantee that the Canadian people can have confidence in what will come out of that report, in view of the fact that although that Committee's chairperson has received a seven-page memorandum from three researchers she chose to keep it secret and would not even provide committee members with copies of the memorandum that criticized the process. Does the Prime Minister think that report will enjoy the confidence of the Canadian people?