

It concerns the tabling of Canada Post's annual report yesterday through which Canadians discovered that this government has sold off \$118 million worth of assets of Canada Post in order to achieve the sought after phoney profit this government is looking for.

Will the minister announce immediately that he will stop the closure of rural post offices in Canada, stop the selling of the furniture of Canada Post, and cancel the next stamp increase?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, it is too bad the hon. member cannot join the rest of Canadians in applauding Canada Post management for its spectacular success. It would seem the hon. member was happier with Canada Post when it had a \$500 million subsidy from the taxpayers.

The profits from postal operations were up \$107 million last year. They were higher than the previous year, a spectacular performance. The hon. member talks about recoveries from the sale of some assets. He forgets to mention that Canada Post self-funded a \$470 million investment program in fixed assets and other management systems and product development.

If he is going to talk about proceeds on sales, in that context he should also recognize the capital expenditures and most of all he should recognize the spectacular performance of Canada Post.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing spectacular about shutting down post offices that are serving ordinary Canadians.

[Translation]

In its last Budget, the Tory government abolished the Postal Services Review Board, the so-called watchdog for Canadian consumers. Is the Minister now prepared to at least reinstate the Board to protect consumers from the catastrophic policies of this government?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member forgot to mention that Canada Post has also forgone a planned increase of 1 cent.

He forgets to acknowledge that stamp price increases since 1984 have been less than inflation, therefore down. He forgets to acknowledge that the number of postal

outlets have increased from 12,000 to 18,000. He forgets to acknowledge that everywhere, including in rural Canada, people by way of opinion surveys are saying that service has improved. He forgets to acknowledge that on all counts things have got better. I guess that is tough for a Liberal to bear.

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JUSTICE

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The Parliament of Canada Act prohibits senators from doing business with the federal government. In light of the police affidavits alleging civil and criminal offences against Senator Cogger, will the minister tell us what measures she plans to introduce to prevent even the appearance of such activities in the future?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am just a little confused by the member's question which appears to relate to something that is under police investigation. I do not quite understand her question. Perhaps she would be prepared to restate it.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to repeat the question. I will repeat it in French or in English.

[Translation]

I repeat, this abuse of confidence is intolerable. Mr. Speaker, I will repeat my question to the Minister: What measures will she take to prevent similar scandals from occurring?

[English]

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, in either of our official languages I do not believe there has been any determination of this process. I think the hon. member's question is totally inappropriate and presumptuous.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board in his responsibilities for the environment. Yesterday the minister tabled Bill C-78 to establish the federal environmental assessment process. As the minister knows, it regrettably does not provide for an adequate review of government policy