

S. O. 31

CANADA POST CORPORATION

RURAL POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, Canada Post is in the process of closing rural post offices including one in Mont Nebo, a rural community in the Battlefords—Meadow Lake constituency. In doing so it is moving the services offered to private sector contractors, corner stores, cafés, and even grain elevators.

During the past year the communities affected and the contractors involved have found the practice unsatisfactory and inadequate. One year ago the organization, Rural Dignity, was formed to protect the rights of people living in rural Canada from the uncaring attitudes of Canada Post.

I want to pay tribute to Rural Dignity today as it celebrates its first anniversary, and again request that the Minister responsible for the Post Office ask Canada Post to review its plan of operations, to commit itself to a system of strong post offices in rural Canada, and to begin the process of finding ways to improve the income side of Canada Post rather than trying to remove the postal deficit by cutting back on the delivery of services to Canadians who live in the rural areas of our country.

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[*Translation*]

HUMAN SOLIDARITY

VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN EARTHQUAKE

Mrs. Nicole Roy-Arcelin (Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, as the newly elected Member for the beautiful riding of Ahuntsic I want to thank all my constituents who voted for progress and the future, namely for the Progressive Conservative Party. Their democratic action shows that they did understand our message in support of elderly people, women and ethnic minorities whose future is directly tied to the early passage of the free trade legislation.

Though my election is a source of joy for the residents of Ahuntsic who voted for me, Mr. Speaker, some of my constituents are now experiencing infinite sadness. I am referring to Canadians of Armenian ancestry who are living through yet another tragedy in their eventful history. I share their sorrow and thank my Government for rushing to their help. Human solidarity did not require anything less than that.

HUMAN SOLIDARITY

EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA—FORWARDING OF AID

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, human solidarity is fine as far as it goes, and attention-getting announcements concerning the tragic events in Armenia may be welcomed, but I think action is needed as well.

Last Friday the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced a \$5 million donation to help the Armenian victims, but I am very disappointed by the fact that the Canadian Red Cross which is expected to deliver medical and other supplies to the Armenian people has yet to be told whether funds will be available to buy medical supplies.

[*English*]

I certainly commend the Government for the \$5 million assistance to the Armenian people. I would suggest, however, that, as well as making the announcement, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) should tell the Canadian Red Cross so it can go ahead immediately to secure the necessary medicine, dialysis machines and other machines. Five days have elapsed since the Prime Minister made his announcement. There has been no money forthcoming to the Red Cross. I ask the Government to act in the most expeditious way to address this necessary issue.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CHARLES NG—APPEAL AGAINST EXTRADITION RULING

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, the case of Charles Ng has brought to light problems in our system for dealing with fugitives who come to Canada seeking refuge from foreign authorities.

The Alberta Court of Queen's Bench has ruled there is sufficient evidence to extradite Ng from Canada to face 19 charges in California, 12 for capital murder. Ng has appealed this decision by way of a habeus corpus application. He has a further appeal to the Alberta Court of Appeal, along with other legal manoeuvres which are available to him.

Ng not only has our appeal process to exhaust but there is also the possibility that the Minister might refuse extradition because of Article 6 of the Canada-U.S. Extradition Treaty of 1976 which provides Canada