

Oral Questions

opinion in the months to come, they will express their complete satisfaction with the new service being offered by Canada Post.

[*English*]

CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the Government said last month that it would not be closing these post offices.

Ms. Copps: Right on!

Some Hon. Members: Right off!

Mr. Boudria: We'll see how funny it is when you're turfed out of office for closing post offices.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is not getting very much help from his colleagues.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I am referring to colleagues on both sides of the House. Would the Hon. Member please put his question.

Mr. MacLellan: Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the Conservatives find this so funny.

Public Works has confirmed that this post office has to be moved by February of 1989 and that a new distribution centre will be in place by then.

My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. If it is not that all the post offices in Cape Breton are going to be privatized, why would a distribution centre for the region be built?

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, once again, I wonder why Opposition Members insist on having the Government intervene in housekeeping decisions by Canada Post.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure residents of The Sydneys and the Hon. Member's riding that contrary to what he just said, we are not closing the post office. That is just not true.

Canada Post has transferred the service to the private sector which will offer residents a better service and longer hours, and I repeat that residents will find everything to their complete satisfaction.

I hope that the Hon. Member, in the months to come, will come back to the House to revise his statement.

[*English*]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the trade deal. Most people in my new riding of Port Moody—Coquitlam—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1450)

Mr. Speaker: The wish is further to the thought. Would the Hon. Member please put his question.

Mr. Waddell: We Scots are optimistic, Mr. Speaker.

Most people in this suburban area near Vancouver drive their cars to work. Therefore, they need secure supplies of oil at reasonable prices. I want to direct a question on their behalf to the Deputy Prime Minister. Does this trade deal with the United States mean that never again can the federal Government enact a National Energy Program—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Waddell: —that would mean lower than market prices for gasoline at the time of an energy crisis? In other words, could the federal Government enact legislation after this deal that would hold Canadian gasoline prices lower than American prices?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the Hon. Member was not at committee last night because the Deputy Minister of Energy gave a very fine explanation of the energy situation within the free trade agreement.

By the way, your riding does not come into being until tomorrow, so you are a day early.

An Hon. Member: Do not give it to him yet.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary could finish his answer.

Mr. McDermid: As the Deputy Minister explained last night, the short answer was yes, it was difficult, but yes it could be done.

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, this in direct contradiction to what the previous Minister for International Trade said, that there could be no more national energy programs.

Mr. McDermid: That was not the question.