

was something that says: "We are going to assess the damage at the end of the year and then we are going to discuss it between the governments. Perhaps sometime next year, you will get some money. You will get some money but we cannot tell you exactly how much money you are going to get."

I suppose that is better than nothing, but it does not do anything for the man or woman who is facing the seizure of property by our financial institutions. It appears to be the thing these days for financial institutions in this country to analyse the economy and to say all of a sudden: "Perhaps those primary producers are not really a good investment because either the industry is down generally or because of some external factors, external even to this country of Canada."

What happens is that our chartered banks deal with producers who need a line of credit almost on a daily basis. Because you are in a business like that where you are selling a commodity, you first of all have to produce the commodity and even after you have sold it, you sometimes have to wait for your money. It always was the tradition of our banking system to say: "We will allow you a certain overdraft at the bank because of your particular circumstance". You could go in and say: "I have definitely sold this amount of farm produce," or, "I have sold this amount of fish. Definitely, I have the contract. It is here."

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I apologize, but I have to interrupt the hon. member at this time.

It being 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 35, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*Translation*]

### CANADA POST

**Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia—Matane):** Madam Speaker, my constituents are saying, loud and clear: enough is enough! After seeing their parishes and CBC station shut down, and after the cuts in VIA Rail

services, now they are going to lose their traditional post offices, which will also mean more unemployment.

Madam Speaker, my constituents Petite-Matane and Rédemption are very upset about the fact that their post office will be closed, and they are asking the government's help in obliging Canada Post to rethink its policy, in communities where the post office is the only symbol of their ties to the rest of Canada.

Madam Speaker, the people in these small villages are not asking for the improved services they were promised. They just want to keep the services they have.

Why, in a region where the poverty rate is the highest in the country, this attempt makes matters even worse? Do they want to close down the Gaspé?

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[*English*]

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Madam Speaker, today, International Women's Day, is set aside as a time to celebrate women and our achievements as we work to take our rightful place as equal partners in society.

Violence against women is perhaps the most persistent yet intolerable situation in the struggle. Documented evidence shows that violence against women has not abated.

Amnesty International reports indicate that, and I quote: "the list of gross violations around the world against women is endless—Many are targeted because they are strong, because they are political activists, community organizers, or persist in demanding that their rights or those of their relatives are respected. Others are targeted because they are seen as vulnerable young women who can easily be sexually abused or humiliated, pregnant women fearful for their unborn babies, or refugee women who are isolated and vulnerable in unfamiliar surroundings."

I implore all members of this House to take a moment and think about what this means and how it feels.

The Liberal Party is strongly committed to moving quickly to make women true equals. This government, on the other hand, is longer on rhetoric than it is on its record.