

*Oral Questions*INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL TABLE PLAN PROMISED
TWO YEARS AGO

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister responsible for Canada Post.

We have been promised a plan to deal with the situation at Canada Post for two years now, and a second increase in the price of postage stamps has already been announced, which makes four cents altogether. When will the Government keep its promises and table the business plan they have been promising us for two years?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat taken aback by my colleague's impatience. First of all, there has been no confirmation of an increase in postal rates, and second, I may remind the Hon. Member that the previous administration seemed to have as little regard for the impact of reducing the deficit at Canada Post as it did for improving postal services.

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[English]

ABORTION

COLLECTION OF STATISTICS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Recently Statistics Canada decided to stop gathering statistics on abortion. As a result, the Department of National Health and Welfare indicated that it may continue to gather the abortion statistics. Would it not be more effective and cost-efficient to let Statistics Canada continue to gather these abortion statistics since it has the necessary mechanisms in place? Will the Minister rescind the previous stop order issued in August?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for giving me a chance to inform the House about a situation I think is very important. Two meetings have been held by officials from my Department with the Department of National Health and Welfare, and I am waiting for their report. Mr. Speaker, I can give the House the assurance that both as a woman and as a Member of this Government, I am anxious to introduce a program that faithfully reflects the situation existing today in Canada with respect to therapeutic abortions. I shall therefore be watching developments very closely.

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR IMPROVED SERVICE PRIOR TO POSTAL RATE
INCREASES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Post Office. Would the Minister be prepared to assure Canadians that he will improve postal service before he approves increases in postal rates?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Government intends to deal with the concerns of Canadians by improving service while reducing the Corporation's deficit. We will try to deal with that in the way which we feel is best. We will make it public as soon as we are ready.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister relates to my first question. Will he not assure Canadians that before he approves any postal rate increases or any other increases in costs for Canadians with regard to postal delivery he will improve the service?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the same question as I answered previously for my other colleague. I would like to reassure my hon. friend that we have received the corporate plan. It is under examination and, as soon as we are ready, we will make the proper announcement.

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FISHERIES

ALLEGED ILLEGAL FISH LANDINGS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. On Friday, October 17, *The Chronicle Herald* of Halifax reported:

As much as half of the fish landed in Nova Scotia is taken illegally in a massive black market fishery that could net fishermen between \$40 and \$65 million this year in unreported catches—

This report has been confirmed by the Minister of Fisheries in Nova Scotia and also by the industry. What immediate action does the Government plan to take to investigate these most serious allegations?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is away on government business today. I will certainly bring the question to his attention. I know that the matter is being looked at now. He will have full information when he gets back to the House.