

S. O. 21

per cent, and for young people 15 to 24 years of age the rate is 20 per cent. Poverty is twice as common for families with one or two children as it is for childless couples.

If the Government cares about our future it must address child poverty. It should restore full indexation to family allowances, provide income tax exemptions that take into account the real cost of raising children, and provide a child tax credit that is more than a token.

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CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

DELAY IN PROCESSING SECURITY CLEARANCES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the nominal lead time for security clearances to be processed through CSIS is an amazing nine months. There is a huge backlog.

These interminable delays are causing undue hardships to other government Departments and also to contractors working on projects such as the North Warning System. Individuals are having to wait for months before they can take up promised jobs.

The situation is close to intolerable, and I call upon the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) to take immediate corrective action.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

VICKERS HEIGHTS POST OFFICE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the post mistress of the Vickers Heights Post Office will soon be retiring. Canada Post wants to close this post office and replace it with group mailboxes, supermailboxes, or a retail outlet if it can find one.

On April 20 Canada Post invited all Vickers Heights residents to a meeting to "review their options". However, this meeting was a complete sham. Canada Post had no intention of reviewing the only option the residents wanted, to keep the post office open.

Canada Post officials claimed at the meeting that they have to reduce their deficit, and they have decided to do this by closing down post offices. However, they flatly refuse to say whether or not the Vickers Heights Post Office has been losing money. They simply were not prepared to explain why it was not possible to retain the Vickers Heights Post Office. We can only assume they don't have a reasonable answer.

The 200 residents who attended this meeting got up and angrily walked out, and rightly so. This meeting was supposed

to be a consultation with the residents, but it was nothing of the kind. Canada Post already had its mind made up.

It is time that Canada Post stopped patronizing Canadians in small communities with its arrogant and hypocritical approach. It is time Canada Post focused on service to the Canadian people instead.

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[Translation]

POLITICAL PARTIES

LIBERAL PARTY'S DEBT

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I want to echo an editorial by Frédéric Wagnière in *La Presse* of April 16 and quote some news items entitled "Party for Sale." The financial area that calls for the most imagination and creativity, Mr. Speaker, is undoubtedly the financing of political parties. Even in this sometimes so fanciful area, we have never heard such a preposterous idea as the one expressed by Mr. Iseman, former president of the Ontario wing of the Liberal Party of Canada.

This party has a debt of some \$6 million and two creditor banks have refused to lend any more. Mr. Iseman feels that other banks should take over. "The country needs the Party," he said. "The banking industry needs the Party. The whole industrial world needs the Party." Such talk is unworthy of a great Party. Let us admit that the banks are lending it all the money they need, Mr. Speaker. How does the Party intend to repay them? Would it be with special favours at the next revision of the Bank Act? How does this Party show that it is serious and credible? What does the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau), a former banker from Quebec, say about this? I ask the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), how do you intend to run the country when you cannot even run your Party!

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• (1410)

[English]

WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERIM PAYMENT TO FARMERS

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, the Western Grain Stabilization interim payment announced last Friday is indeed good news for participating producers. It makes the fourth year in a row that this payment will be in the producers' hands, to assist with the cost of seeding the current year's crop, and it comes as a direct result of the amendments our Government made to the Western Grain Stabilization Act in February of 1985.