

S. O. 21

Say, do you realize how much time it takes for me to stop at the U.S. border on the way south and be hassled with tariffs that I have to pay? When it comes to free trade tell that Mulroney fellow that he has my blessings, and although John and Ed are still getting the regular tin horn and air balloon presents, I am saving a dandy Christmas present for Brian for later in 1988.

Keep up the good work. Merry Christmas, buddy.

Nick Claus.

P.S. Felix, regarding your favourite constituent, the Premier of Manitoba, do not worry. Nobody is listening to him.

* * *

[*Translation*]

THE ADMINISTRATION

REPORT ON 1987

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, year's end is always the time to produce balance sheets. Looking over the balance sheet of the Conservatives, 1987 will prove to be the year of catastrophic happenings, not to mention scandals.

Hon. Members will recall that elderly Canadians and families have been particularly hard hit, and that Montreal East was not spared. The Government failed to respond to the recommendations of the Picard and Pichette reports. Above all, Mr. Speaker, the end of the year is highlighted by calamity in the shipbuilding industry. The Government did not live up to its promises to Quebecers, and these people will not forget it whenever the next election comes up.

* * *

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IRAN-IRAQ WAR—CANADIAN ROLE IN SEEKING SOLUTION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to pay particular attention to the efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. The U.S. and the Soviet Union have disagreed on how to enforce the Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war. The Soviet Union has not agreed to an arms boycott of Iran and the United States has not been willing to entertain a proposal to put a U.S. naval force into the Persian Gulf.

A number of influential persons, including the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Shridath S. Ramphal, believe the time is ripe to revive multilateralism and to get the United Nations to fulfil its promise as an instrument of collective security.

Canada should be trying to develop a consensus on these questions in order to pressure the superpowers to come to some kind of agreement. I urge the Prime Minister, the Secretary of

State for External Affairs and the Government to make Canada's voice heard.

* * *

TAX REFORM

BENEFITS TO SCARBOROUGH CENTRE CONSTITUENTS

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, 85 per cent of families in Scarborough Centre will pay less taxes as a result of the tax reform measures announced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). Tax reform also means that nine out of 10 seniors in Scarborough Centre will pay lower taxes, and thousands of low-income families will pay no tax at all.

Let me cite three examples of how tax reform will benefit the majority of people in Scarborough Centre. Mrs. Doris Birse, a senior citizen in my riding, receives most of her income from Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, and a modest annuity. Thanks to the tax reform initiatives, Mrs. Birse will pay \$350 less in taxes next year. Another senior in Scarborough Centre, Mrs. Ethel Epp, also receives OAS and CPP benefits, as well as a small additional pension. Tax reform will save her over \$300 next year. Finally, as a result of converting tax exemptions into tax credits and the lowering of personal income tax rates, the Csorgeo family will save nearly \$1,000 in taxes.

For those people and thousands more in Scarborough Centre, tax reform means savings.

* * *

● (1200)

CANADA POST CORPORATION

MAIL DELIVERY BACKLOG

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, this is a statement about the Grinch who stole Christmas. Most of the more astute Members of this House will have already realized that, of course, I am talking about Canada Post.

Every day at post offices from one end of the country to the other Christmas packages are piling up. Every day the backlog of undelivered parcels grows larger. Why is that? Because Canada Post will not allow its employees to work the overtime necessary to get the mail out.

Instead, it is hiring casual workers, people who use their own cars or trucks, to deliver parcels at \$1 a piece. They are not required to have any security checks, special insurance, or a special licence which, in some communities, is supposed to be the law for this kind work.