

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 7, 1990

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

NATIONAL UNITY

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the city of Thunder Bay at committee of the whole last Monday passed a motion to make the city unilingual—English only. Unfortunately, this has been interpreted as anti-French, anti-minority and anti-Quebec.

Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to all members of this House and Canadians that this is simply not so. This vote expresses the frustration and the dissatisfaction with this government. It is a backlash.

Never before have residents of northern Ontario felt so alienated, so excluded and so ignored by this government. This government's policies show complete disregard for the needs of northern Ontario people.

It has eliminated our passenger rail service. There is a 15 per cent export tax on softwood lumber. There is a closure of rural post offices. There is a lack of satisfactory roads. Gas prices are exorbitant. There is lack of enough grain to ship through our port, and now we have to face the goods and services tax and what it will do to an already troubled economy.

There is fear, although unfounded, about the rights of northern Ontario if we don't, like myself, speak French.

People in northern Ontario and Thunder Bay are patient and caring people. We are not saying "No" to our fellow Canadians from Quebec. We have the highest

respect for them. We value the rights of all Canadians and all minorities.

All we ask is for this government to give us an equal chance—nothing special but an equal chance for all Canadians in the north to participate in the Canadian dream.

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[*Translation*]

CEREBRAL PALSY TELETHON

Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides): Over the past weekend, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of participating actively in the 14th Cerebral Palsy Telethon in my Laurentides riding. I wish to emphasize the outstanding effort made by the organizing committee and the great many volunteers. They all spent a lot of time and energy to make this event an unqualified success and finally reached their target.

Mr. Speaker, I wish also to pay tribute to all the people who responded generously to this appeal. The commitment of all my constituents will certainly help the efforts of the scientists who are involved in cerebral palsy research with the hope that we may eventually refer to this condition as a thing of the past.

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[*English*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, across Canada the Canada Post Corporation has been telling Canadians it is committed to providing services for rural Canada.

We all remember the full page newspaper ads which appeared recently stating in large letters: "We are in rural Canada to stay". Once again, Canada Post is hiding behind its own propaganda.

On February 26, Canada Post will close the post office in Dubuc, Saskatchewan, forcing Dubuc residents to a