

Government Orders

[Text]

Question No. 164—Mr. Stupich:

Since September 1984, has the government entered into contracts with (a) Saga Communications of St. John's, Newfoundland (b) Ad Vantage Ltd., of St. John's, Newfoundland (c) Medford Associates Ltd. of Halifax, Nova Scotia (d) Triton Development Ltd. of St. John's, Newfoundland (e) Omni Facts Research of St. John's, Newfoundland and if so (i) on what dates (ii) for what amount (iii) for what purpose.

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Belsher: Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION ACT**MEASURE TO AMEND**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre that Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act, be read a second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope; and the amendment of Mr. Boudria (p. 10744).

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Madam Speaker, it is an interesting bill we are debating here today. It is one of these bills that in the future we would always be able to go back to, if the government had the opportunity to govern much longer, which it will not, and there would be a wealth of denials about the actual intent of the government when it introduces pieces of legislation.

I listened with a great deal of amusement to the minister responsible and some of his colleagues opposite. They gave eloquent speeches in the House today on those wonderful employees of Canada Post Corporation.

All I can ask is, why did it take you so long to realize that the people who work at Canada Post Corporation are indeed wonderful public servants who deserve some

respect from this government and deliver a tremendous service to all Canadians?

A member opposite was speaking just prior to Question Period, and I was almost apoplectic in my chair. He was talking about the wonderful service and what terribly efficient people work at the Canada Post Corporation. He even had to delve into the Never Never Land of the North Pole and Santa Claus. All these wonderful men and women that work at Canada Post even process mail that comes with the postal code HOH OHO. I say to him: "Oh, oh, oh".

He converted himself on the road to Damascus on this issue, because the record of this government in dealing with those wonderful public servants who are just trying to get a decent day's pay for an honest day's work has been absolutely abysmal.

The government got up today and got its members up like trained seals to read memorandums and speeches written by the department saying: "Forgive us, forgive us, forgive us, we know not what we have done. We really did not mean to kick you all over the mat and all over the carpet, you employees of Canada Post".

It is saying: "Yes, we finally realize that you are nice people and are deserving of some praise from the government, your employer in this country", but that is not the way it has been. To deny the past is not something I will allow the government to do here.

The Canada Post Corporation is perhaps the one service that touches every single Canadian because hopefully at some point in your life you are going to receive a letter from somebody. Every month I get too many bills from a whole lot of people and maybe a few letters as well.

Canada Post is one of the most visible signs of the Government of Canada for the people of our nation. The postman used to ring the door bell. We used to be proud that we had a national system of mail delivery which was second to none anywhere in the world. We used to talk about how proud our public servants were to deliver that service for Canadians from the Canadian postal service, Canada Post.

When the government led by Brian Mulroney came in, and I do not have the quotes here but I put them to the record often enough, the reckless rhetoric of the Prime Minister leading up to the 1984 election should have