

Oral Questions

standards and regulations we have imposed on this particular industry. [Translation]

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, the point is that until the cumulative impact studies are completed and made public, the hearings are not based on any necessary, essential information. The hearings are rendered thus nonsensical.

In addition to the government suspending those hearings at the moment, I ask: Assuming that the ministry agrees with its officials that "some of the other mills should be revisited to examine their cumulative effect", will the government order new hearings into previously approved projects, especially that of the Alberta Energy Company at Lesser Slave Lake?

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, there is a parallel process under way. There is an EARP process under way with regard to the Al-Pac project, and there is a study under way looking at pulp mill affluence everywhere in the country.

The hon. member proposes to terminate these processes—

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): Suspend.

Mr. Oberle: —or to suspend them in search of information. Why would we suspend these critical processes designed to seek the information the hon. member wants? We want this information as well.

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): You won't get half the information.

Mr. Oberle: Perhaps the hon. member would listen. The more we can do to find information to back up the imposition we have already made on the industry in terms of sustainable development and the concept related to it, the better off we will be.

Instead of wanting to terminate or suspend these processes, why does the member not support them and provide evidence to the working tribunals?

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation. In 1986, the federal government decided to cut back subsidies for postal services to northern communities, and did so without consulting northern Canadians.

Last night, we managed to obtain a three-month moratorium on an increase in commercial parcel rates that would have become effective on November 13 this year, according to a decision by Canada Post.

Mr. Speaker, my question is as follows: Could the Minister confirm to the House whether a task force will be appointed by the government, involving the Departments of Indian and Northern Affairs, National Health and Welfare and the Canada Post Corporation, in order to find a solution to this very serious problem that will affect all northern Canadians in 1990, and I am referring to postal rates for local air services?

• (1140)

[English]

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague for his question.

[Translation]

I understand there is now a moratorium, and we intend to set up a task force in order to find a solution, and the Hon. Member will also have an opportunity to state his position.

[English]

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, we have just been told that the parcel post rate increase will be delayed by three months, until January 31. The fact still remains that there will be a 32 per cent rate increase, or thereabouts, in the northern commercial freight rate to about 85 northern communities.

Because the cost of living in those northern communities is now two or three times higher than down here, is