

*Oral Questions*

which perhaps even the Hon. House Leader of the Liberal Party might find acceptable.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** The Minister has given a very unconvincing explanation as to why what the Minister responsible for Canada Post said on behalf of the Government is not turning out to be the case.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE—PROPOSED POSTAL RATE INCREASE

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** I want to ask the Minister acting for the Minister responsible for Canada Post this question. His Minister said there would be no increase in postal rates until there was an improvement in service. We now have clear evidence that instead of an improvement there has been a clear deterioration in service, including a deterioration in the security of mail because of these supermailboxes.

Why has the Government again broken its promise with its intention to increase rates for delivering the mail by increasing the rates for postage? It is not keeping its promise not to do this unless service is first improved. Why will the Government not keep its promise?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, my only suggestion to the House Leader of the Liberal Party is that he be a little patient and wait for the report. Perhaps then he can comment on what suggestions or recommendations might be contained in the report. If he is a little patient I think this whole matter will work out very well.

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## TRADE

## UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who talked about the trade talks which are going on with the United States in his press conference this morning. Yesterday the U.S. lumber coalition made it clear to the U.S. Department of Commerce that it would accept nothing less than a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian lumber exports, thus laughing at the whole stance taken by the Canadian Government in these negotiations. Does the Government today seriously expect that after the same group of people announce their decision about the Canadian Government's proposal, having said they wanted 25 per cent yesterday, they are going to go for 15 per cent today?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, that is a matter which is a speculative issue at this point in time. We are dealing with the U.S. Commerce Department and with the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. As I have not heard back from him, there is nothing to be gained by commenting at this time.

[Translation]

## GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ALLEGED FURTHER FINAL OFFER

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister. The Canadian Government has already made two final offers. During his press conference this morning the Prime Minister made it clear that he intends to continue this fight. My question is directed to the Prime Minister or the Minister. Can the Government assure the House that it will not make a third lousy final offer?

● (1125)

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot really add further to my earlier answer, that this matter is under discussion in Washington today, except to say that the Province of Quebec was one of the provinces that supported the position of the Government of Canada.

## PRIVATE SECTOR STUDY—IMPACT ON JOBS—CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister that it will not be the first time that the Premier of the Province of Quebec has been wrong.

In this context I wish to ask the Prime Minister this. Since a private sector study, which I know the Prime Minister would respect, has indicated each percentage point we give away in these tariffs costs us 1,000 jobs on the Canadian side of the border, will the Government now learn its lesson and not make another offer in these negotiations? Will it stick to our legal position which is in the best interests of the Canadian industry and which protects Canadian sovereignty?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I have already said in the House, as have my colleagues, that the position that we have taken with the support of nine provinces is the position that protects Canada's sovereignty. It is the Opposition's position which is the threat to Canadian sovereignty.

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## CANADA POST CORPORATION

## RURAL MAIL DELIVERY—LACK OF GUIDELINES

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, we seem to be getting somewhere with the postal plan. My question is for the Acting Minister responsible for the Post Office. Some 68 post offices have closed down in western Canada. Even two have closed in Newfoundland. Why did the Government approve, and will the Standing Committee now have the authorization to change, the fact that guidelines were set for mail delivery in urban centres within a province and between urban centres between provinces but no guidelines