

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

### TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEE AT WILLIAMS LAKE, B.C.

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw to the attention of the House the outrageous and unacceptable labour relations practised by Canada Post.

In Williams Lake a postal employee, Linda Rowse, was ordered quarantined by her doctor for whooping cough. The postmaster threatened to fire her if she did not return to work forthwith.

In Williams Lake the postmaster was not only prepared to violate Mrs. Rowse's rights but was also prepared to expose the rest of the postal employees to disease and work loss.

Not satisfied with this harassment and intimidation, the postal corporation then asked its doctor, Dr. Bell Irving, to telephone Mrs. Rowse, posing as a public health official, to obtain confidential medical information about Mrs. Rowse.

Dr. Bell Irving then began to harass Mrs. Rowse's doctor saying that she had no right to quarantine the woman.

Not satisfied with these exorbitant violations, the postmaster then refused to give the employee her pay cheque. Mrs. Rowse broke out with active whooping cough, and all was forgiven.

If these unacceptable acts were not widespread, they could be viewed as an isolated incident. The Government must act immediately to clean up the mess within that corporation and to grant employees within the postal corporation basic rights which are expected in Canada.

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

### COMMONWEALTH VIOLATIONS

**Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, an Amnesty International report indicates that 33 of the 49 countries in the Commonwealth are guilty of serious human rights violations. These include beatings, tortures, and political executions.

The countries cited in the Amnesty report are the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei-Darussalam, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, St. Christopher and Nevis, and St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

Clearly human rights ought to be on the agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Vancouver, and clearly we need an ongoing program here.

Some of the offending countries receive Canadian development assistance. The Canadian Government will do right to

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use the leverage of its assistance programs to gain justice for people unable to secure it for themselves.

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● (1410)

## THE CONSTITUTION

### MEECH LAKE ACCORD—POSITION OF CANADIAN COALITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with Hon. Members a part of a letter sent to me by Deborah Coyne of the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, written on behalf of the Canadian Coalition on the Constitution. She writes:

As you have clearly recognized, the Meech Lake Accord involves major irrevocable constitutional changes that will seriously weaken the national Government such as to put in doubt our future existence as a single, sovereign, bilingual and multicultural nation. The Accord also undermines the Charter and our commitment as a people to respect and promote basic rights and freedoms, and to strengthen protections for minorities across the country.

The coalition believes that the Accord is seriously flawed and does not reflect the views of the majority of Canadians. The First Ministers must therefore reopen the Accord for changes and renegotiation, rather than stifle the legitimate and widespread public concern as was done during the recent Special Joint Committee hearings . . .

The vote of every Member of Parliament on this issue that will decide the future of this nation is of historical importance. We deeply appreciate your decision to add your voice to the side of those who are committed to ensuring that Canada remains a strong, sovereign and united country with the capacity to build further on the standards of fairness and social justice we have already attained.

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[*Translation*]

## FREE TRADE

### PROTECTION OF FARMERS

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, farmers and especially dairy producers are concerned because they were misinformed about the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. In all areas, marketing boards have been and will continue to be maintained.

The anti-free-trade coalitions have acted shamelessly by alarming, without reason, both farm producers and their long-term lenders. This is rhetoric that is both unfair and dangerous.

There are federal Members who support the interests of Quebec farmers and there are provincial Members. We have all protected the interests of our farm producers.

The others who are responsible for representing them as a group should retract their previous, unfounded statements and give their members the correct information.